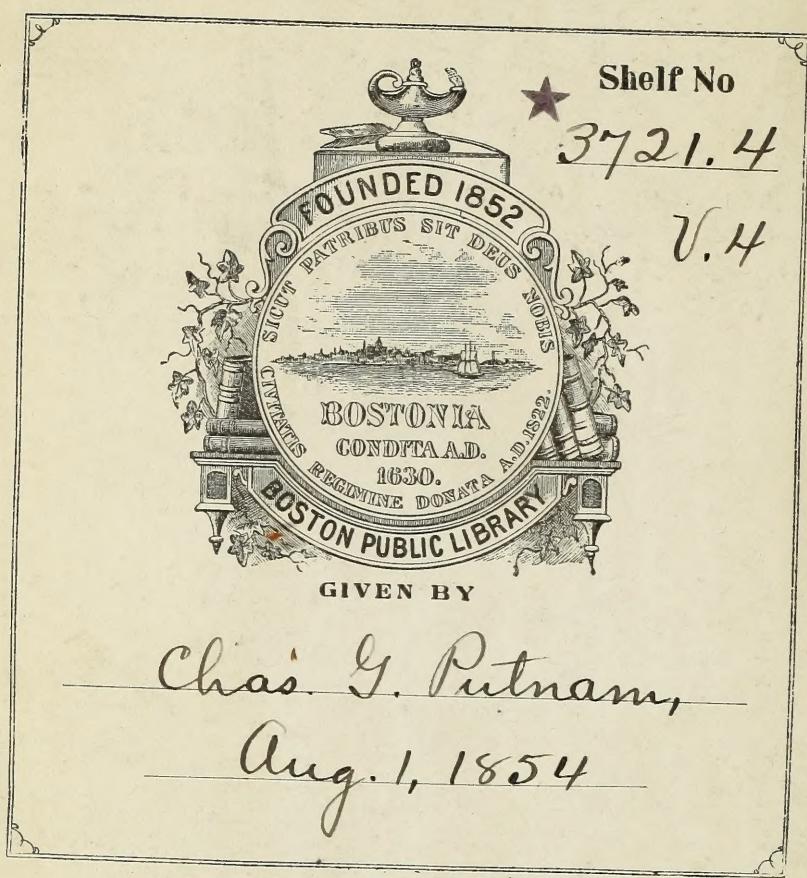
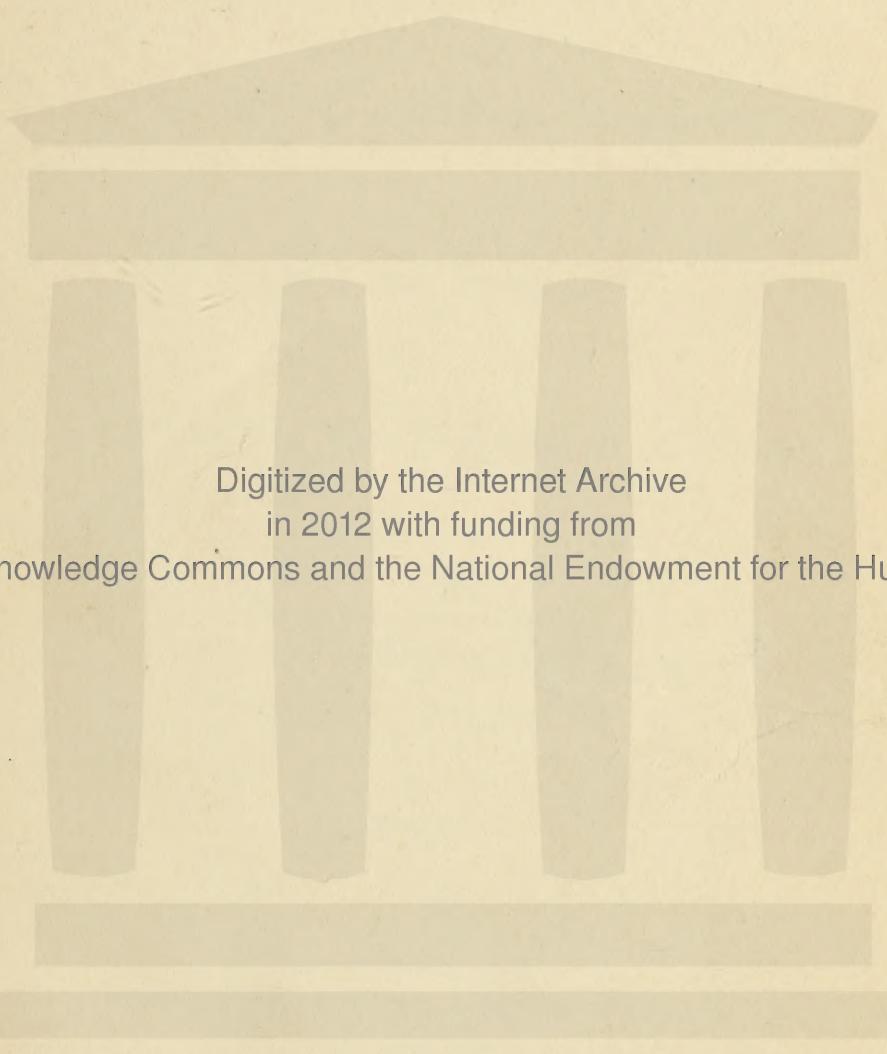


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BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

DEVOTED TO

THE CAUSE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION,

AND TO THE MEANS OF

PREVENTING AND OF CURING DISEASES.

CONDUCTED BY JOHN G. COFFIN, M.D.

VOLUME IV.

The best part of the medical art, is the art of avoiding pain.

BOSTON:

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John G. Petruan M.D.

Aug 1, 54

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We are perfectly disposed to admit that the care of the bodily health should be a primary object in the early periods of education ; and we are certain, that by making this, in a proper manner, a primary object, the ulterior ends of education will be best accomplished : but then it should be pursued with a view to these ends ; and if it be not, it will itself, in all probability, defeat its own purpose. An unrestrained mind in a vigorous body, cannot fail to be eventually a slave of the body. In subsequent periods of education, mental and moral culture may, and must be, the leading objects ; but they too will, in a considerable degree, defeat their own ends, if pursued without reference to the bodily health and vigor. We would by no means intimate that debility of body, or extreme physical sensibility, is *necessarily* attended with ill effects on the moral and intellectual systems. Under judicious management, they often have led to high degrees of moral worth, and have not prevented very great progress in mental culture ; but their general tendency is, on the one hand, to produce debility of mind, and the moral qualities connected with it, cowardice, meanness, &c. ; or, on the other, that extreme sensibility which will either speedily consume the powers of body and mind, or sink into selfishness of the most injurious kind, because it often wears the garb of benevolence.—Whatever be the nature of the immediate organs of the percipient principle, there can be no doubt that they depend greatly on the bodily system. Whatever be the nature of the organization on which sensation, retention, association, memory, and imagination depend, it is indisputable, that it is most intimately connected with the material organization which is connected with any of the operations of the mind. So far as the judgment depends on these subordinate powers, this also must be affected by whatever affects them. That the elementary powers forming the memory and imagination, are very greatly dependent on the body, is a point so well ascertained, that we may assume it as a fundamental position ; and the close connexion, therefore, between the culture of the understanding and a sound and vigorous physical system, follows at once as a necessary consequence.—*Lant Carpenter.*

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BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

MAY 16, 1826.

NO. 1.

CASE OF HYDROCEPHALUS.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer;

BY JOHN WALLACE, JUN. ESQ.

March 29th, 1826, I was called to a child aged 8 months. It had been ill for several weeks. The attending physician had been dismissed. Learnt the following history of the case from the mother, an intelligent woman. The child had enjoyed good health until the beginning of winter, when it took the hooping-cough, which it bore very well, and had almost recovered. In the beginning of March, it was attacked with the prevailing influenza, with considerable affections of the lungs. After the febrile symptoms had in some measure abated, the child gave evident symptoms of an affection of the head, with occasional convulsions, which symptoms had gradually increased to this time. The principal medicine for the last three weeks was Fowler's Mineral Solution, *six drops twice a day*;—it had taken about one third of an ounce. I found it with a sallow and somewhat bloated countenance, the head voluntarily drawn backwards, impatient in an erect posture, the right arm frequently raised to the head, the left still by its side, and apparently paralytic—the head constantly rolling on the pillow (which had been the case for at least three weeks). The right side of the head was much distorted, the sutures between the temporal and parietal bones considerably separated, and the bones protruded outwards, the integuments at the fontanel raised to the thickness of a man's thumb, and as tense as a drumhead. There was constant retching and vomiting when any thing was taken into the stomach; the bowels constipated, nothing had passed for forty-eight hours, and very little urine voided; great heat in the head and bowels, pulse quick and fluttering, the tongue red and parched, and apparently great thirst; respiration quick, with occasionally a moaning kind of groan. The stomach seemed in a state of violent inflammation, probably in consequence of the arsenical solution. I could have no doubt that there was water in the head, and considered the case a hopeless one. *Palliatives* only were at this time thought of. Directed to discontinue the arsenical solution—to apply sinapisms to the feet—cloths, wet with cold vinegar and spirit to be applied to the head and region of the stomach and bowels, and changed as often as they became dry; internally, small and repeated doses of super tartrite potass, and linseed tea.

March 30th, had had a restless night; coma alternated with restlessness and partial convulsions; the general appearance much as yesterday, except that the eyes were drawn toward the nose, and the pupils much contracted, with a slight convulsive motion or twitching; the medicine was retained on the stomach, has had one thick green stool, and voided urine once. Medicine to be continued, with the addition of an infusion of senna and anise seed, to assist the cathartic effect of the sup. tart. potass.

March 31st, had passed several copious watery stools; voided urine freely; less heat in the head and bowels, but considerable difficulty of breathing. Directed solution tarterized antimony, short of emetic doses, to alternate with the former cathartic medicine.

April 1st, heat and difficulty of breathing greatly abated; frequent watery discharges from the bowels continued, but somewhat green; has taken the breast, several times, moderately; pulse weak, and great debility; head less crowded; the tumor at the fontanel less tense. Suspend the cathartic medicine till evening; meantime directed an infusion Rad. Serpentaria flos. Melissa and flos. Cracus, together with a few grains calcined magnesia.

April 2d, the cathartic medicine had been repeated in the evening, followed with several more watery stools, less green; great debility remains, yet the general appearance better; took the breast several times, and rested comfortably through last night.—Directed the cordial infusion through the day and night, to be followed next morning with Ol. Ricini, continuing the Magnesia.

April 4th. Did not see the patient yesterday, but learnt that it was comfortable through the day; the oil operated but once. In the evening the difficulty of breathing greatly increased, with partial convulsions. An emetic dose of the solution of T. Antimony was given; operated once upward, and many times powerfully by the bowels, which greatly relieved the symptoms; the child extremely weak and exhausted from the powerful operation of the medicine. Directed to continue the cordial infusion, with wine, and to give the former cathartic medicine so as to produce two or three stools in twenty-four hours.

April 6th. Debility less, breathing more free, the distortion of the cranium diminishing; takes the breast freely; directions the same as on the fourth.

April 9th. Continues to mend; the bowels opened every day; the eyes appear natural; the fontenel quite flaccid; the sutures between the temporal and parietal bones gradually regaining their natural position; takes the breast freely. Medicine the same.

April 13th. Gradually mending. Medicine the same.

April 17th. The head scarcely distorted; appetite good; discharges from the bowels natural, without cathartic medicine; eyes lively; is playful; appetite sufficient.

April 20th. The child apparently restored to health in every respect, except remaining debility, which is every day diminishing.

REMARKS.

The recovery in this case was wholly unexpected. In the course of twenty-four years' practice, I had not seen so distinctly a marked case of hydrocephalus that recovered. That there was a large collection of water in the head there can be no doubt. That it was within the dura mater, seems not less evident. That it was diffused in the ventricles of the brain, may be perhaps doubted, although my impression is that it was, because many of the symptoms corresponded with those in several fatal cases where on examination I have found water in the substance of the brain. The relief to the head was evidently in consequence of the fluid discharges from the bowels; and that relief appeared to be exactly in proportion to those discharges. In what manner the water was transferred from the head to the bowels, I shall leave for physiologists to determine, as well as whether the cathartic medicines made use of were the best calculated to produce that effect.

Milford, N. H. May 4, 1826.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

BIOGRAPHY.

The Rev. PHINEHAS FISK was the son of Dr John Fisk, and was born at Milford, Con., 1683. His father appears to have been the son of the Rev. John Fisk, of Chelmsford, Mass., [see Elliott's Biography,] who, as is frequently the case in the early history of New England, was both a clergyman and a physician. While the infant seminary of Yale College remained at Killingworth, under the immediate charge of the Rev. Abraham Pierson, the first president or rector, PHINEHAS FISK, in company with Jared Elliott, who was subsequently distinguished as a clergyman and a physician, Jonathan Dickenson, who was afterwards president of the College of Nassau-Hall, with several others, pursued their academical studies in that town. He was graduated in 1704. In 1706, the College being removed to Saybrook, he was appointed tutor, and continued in that station till 1713. During these seven years, he was the principal instructor, and had almost the sole superintendence of the institution; since, after the decease of Mr Pierson, in 1707, the Rev. Samuel Andrew, of Milford, the temporary rector, did not reside at Saybrook, and consequently could have only a nominal presidency. Under his tuition about forty students received their education, and the school first assumed the form and regularity of a College. Dr Stiles used to mention him as a very able instructor, and considered the institution as much indebted to his abilities and exertions. Among his most distinguished pupils, was the Rev. Samuel Johnson, D. D., first president of the College of New York. In 1714 he was settled as the minister of Haddam, where he died Oct. 17th, 1738.

Mr FISK was possessed of quite a philosophical turn of mind, was a good mathematician, and an excellent linguist. He spoke Latin very fluently, and, as was the custom of that day, when he met with professed scholars who introduced any philosophical or literary subjects for discussion, he always preferred conversing in that language, which upon such topics was the most familiar to him. Judging from the remains of his library, his reading must have been very extensive ; and from the various opposite tenets of the different authors, he was in the habit of reading *both sides* upon controversial questions. He was a very modest man, and had a great aversion to appearing before the public as an author. He left a valuable common-place book, which contained many curious extracts with original remarks of his own, and several manuscripts; but it is not known that he ever published any thing, except a sermon preached before the legislature at the General Election at Hartford.

He was descended from medical ancestors, and in company with many of his clerical brethren of his day, practised medicine himself, and was distinguished as a physician, more particularly for his skill in treating insanity and epilepsy. The attention of his family had been especially turned to the latter disease, from the circumstance of one of his brothers being subject to it; and both his father and himself, though the case of his brother proved to be incurable, made themselves better acquainted with the complaint, and treated it with greater success, than any of their contemporary physicians. It does not appear, that either his father or he made any mystery of their treatment; yet one of his recipes was long employed as a nostrum by some of his descendants. His general treatment of epilepsy, consisted in making a strong impression upon the stomach and alimentary canal, by a preparation of antimony ; this, he afterwards followed by a free use of castor, asafœtida, and other anti-spasmodics; and he completed the cure by a persevering course of iron. [See the Catalogue of Yale College, and Field's Statistical account of the county of Middlesex, Connecticut.]

DR HOSACK'S OBSERVATIONS ON MEDICAL CHARACTER.

We have perused with considerable pleasure a pamphlet entitled "Observations on the Medical Character, addressed to the graduates of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of N. York, at the commencement held on the 4th of April, 1826, by David Hosack, M. D." It presents a just view of the duties and responsibility attached to the profession of medicine, with much sound and judicious advice to its younger members. The Professor writes like one who values his art above every thing else, which sometimes gives his style a degree of freedom which may possibly detract a little from its effect with those who estimate things by the sober standard of common sense. As it was, however, addressed to young men, this very quality was

probably well adapted to give it its proper effect; and is therefore to be considered not as a blemish, but as an evidence of the judgment and address of the author. On a subject of this kind much novelty of course is not to be expected, and the merit of such papers must chiefly depend on the power of the writer to enforce and illustrate maxims and truths that are already well known. In this view Dr Hosack's "Observations" are valuable, and may be confidently recommended to the younger members of the profession. His remarks on the mischief of intemperance, are particularly worthy of attention, as observation seems to have established the truth, which, however mortifying, it were worse than useless to attempt to disguise, that too many of our profession have fallen into this degrading and beastly vice. The remarks on the professional jealousy of physicians, and its consequences, are also worthy of some consideration, as they point to the source of that base and contemptible conduct which we sometimes witness among certain medical characters who are determined *per fas et nefas* to work *their* way into business. We would also recommend, especially to our younger brethren, the advice of Dr Hosack on the subject of the apportionment and diligent employment of time. The importance of this subject, in reference to professional improvement, it is impossible to overrate. Habits of patient industry should be formed early, while the mind is flexible; and they will not fail richly to reward the subjects of them, not only in the rapid increase, but in the accelerated ratio of increase of their medical knowledge. On one point we cannot, to the full extent, agree with the author. We refer to his remarks on the duty of physicians of devoting themselves *solely* and *exclusively* to their own profession. In a country of free institutions, and enjoying a state of society like ours, we think it neither possible nor desirable that medical men should be so wholly engrossed by their profession as to feel no interest, and to take no part in the political concerns of their country. As citizens enjoying all the benefits of our political system, they owe a duty to their country which no professional consideration can wholly supersede. Our country has eminently a right to some small portion at least of the time, the talents, and the exertions of all its children—and a special claim upon those whose education has qualified them above the great mass of their fellow-citizens, to reason and judge correctly. Further, we are aware of no solid reason why physicians, whose taste and leisure qualify them for literary pursuits, should be wholly interdicted from the cultivation of them. One great means of dignifying medicine, is to make it, in every proper sense, a liberal profession. And this can in no way be more effectually accomplished, than by adorning its literature with the solid graces of a correct and enlightened taste. The classical author has surely not forgotten that the god of Poetry and Eloquence was the eminent patron of physic. In expressing these opinions, however, we do not wish to be understood as dissenting from the general spirit of the author's remarks, on this subject. In the main, we agree with him, and with the gratification which we have desired to express, we cordially recom-

mend it to our medical readers. On the whole, the pamphlet is creditable to its distinguished author, and if it should not increase, will at least derogate nothing from his well earned fame. On the same subject we would recommend to our younger brethren, the excellent "Lecture on the duties and qualifications of a physician" by Dr Gregory.

MUSTARD SEED.

We have lately received from a valued friend and correspondent in London, a minute account of the efficacy of white mustard seed, given whole, in the cure and prevention of numerous diseases. We will at present only remind our friends that this remedy was held in repute by Dr Cullen, has been used and recommended by several distinguished physicians since his day, and is now the most popular object of attention among the faculty of Great Britain. The medicinal virtues of the mustard seed are a subject of common research at the present moment, and we are encouraged at every step of the investigation, by the conviction that this article is a most valuable acquisition to our *materia medica*. In our next, we shall speak more particularly on this subject.

LUNAR CAUSTIC IN LEUCORRHœA.

Many lives are sacrificed by a concealment of this disease. It exists in many more individuals than apply for its relief, and in great numbers, even, who carefully avoid a disclosure of their trouble. The morbid discharge being allowed to continue, sooner or later produces a prostration of strength and constitutional derangement, which, united to the obstinacy acquired by the local affections, resists every means resorted to at this late hour for the recovery of health.

We have not been ignorant of the nature, more than of the ravages of this complaint, and a proportional degree of industry has been given by the faculty, to ascertain the most effectual remedies and the surest method of cure. Tincture of Cantharides was, a few years ago, a popular medicine in the treatment of Leucorrhœa. It was doubtless effectual in many instances, but required, in all, so much care and attention, that a remedy of equal efficacy and more easily applied, became a desideratum. We think that such is found in the *Nitrate of Silver*. This we have found uniformly more effectual in removing the symptoms of the disease, than any other medicine, and it has the additional advantage of giving tone to the stomach, and improving the state of the system generally. We have usually advised one tenth of a grain, four times a day, until the disease yields. For the first week, a blister over the sacrum should be enjoined, and a good nourishing diet and fresh air recommended.

By the late English journals we find the medical world rejoiced by the success of a new remedy in this obstinate and common disease. A physician," say they "who pays particular attention to the diseases of females,

informs us that he has found the following mixture uniformly successful in the cure of Fluor Albus in leuco-phlegmatic habits and elderly subjects. Take of Tinct. of Cubebs and Tinct. of Rhatany Root, each 6 drs.—Infus. of Buchu, 8 ounces—mix. Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day. He paid attention to the state of the intestines, and when not properly relieved, he prescribed aperient pills, composed of extract of rhubarb and jalap with a little ginger powder. When there were symptoms of visceral obstruction, he also prescribed the blue pill, in doses of four grains at bed time every other night for a fortnight."

Now we have two objections to adopting this plan of treatment although it may be very good in itself. One is, that we are so shamefully deficient in medical zeal that we have never been able to obtain Rhatany Root or Buchu in this country, and the other is, that the disease may be effectually cured by the nitrate of silver in less than a "fortnight"—that is—before the patient across the water had done taking his blue pill. Besides, we think Fluor Albus is one of the diseases which is always accompanied by a loss of strength, and never occasioned by plethora. Burns says in this, as in *every other* of the numerous complaints he treats of, that if there be too much excitement, bleed, blister, and purge,—if too little, give tonics. This is an epitome of his work as far as treatment is concerned. There are few cases, however, if any, in which depleting remedies are useful in leucorrhœa, and we can recommend the lunar caustic as serviceable in *every* case,—it may be given without exception.

VARIETIES.

EFFECT OF POISON UPON VEGETABLES.—M. F. Marcket, of Geneva, has lately published the result of some curious experiments respecting the effect of both mineral and vegetable poisons upon the system of vegetables. From the whole of his experiments he concludes, 1st. That metallic poisons act upon vegetables nearly as they do upon animals. They appear to be absorbed and carried into different parts of the plants, altering and destroying the vessels by their corrosive powers. 2dly. That vegetable poisons, especially those which have been proved to destroy animals by their action upon the nervous system, also cause the death of plants. Whence he infers, that there exists in the latter a system of organs, which is affected by poisons nearly as the nervous system of animals.

CHLORUET OF LIME AS A DISINFECTING AGENT.—M. Deslandes has published an observation upon the use of chloruet of lime in destroying the odour arising from putrid animal matter. In a case in which the placenta was retained and came away in shreds, producing such effluvia that the chamber could hardly be borne, this preparation completely succeeded. It was injected in the proportion of an ounce to a pint of infusion of marshmallows. The putrid odour disappeared after the second injection; and this being frequently repeated, it did not again return.—*London Medical Repository, January 1826.*

GYMNASTICS.—Gymnastic exercises have been introduced at Harvard University, under the authority of its government, and superintended by a competent director; for the purpose of promoting that great desideratum—the health of students.

ADVERTISEMENT.—In compliance with the wishes of many of the subscribers to the Medical Intelligencer, the fourth volume will be published in the octavo form, with a view to an enlargement hereafter, as proposed in the last number, if desired. It is hoped that all subscribers who have any preference in regard to form or size, will, when they make remittances or forward communications, express their wishes on these points, to enable the proprietor to judge of the expediency of their adoption. The price of the work, as now published, to those who comply with our terms of paying in advance, will remain two dollars per annum; but of those who are delinquent at the end of three months, two and a half will be required. These conditions will *in no instance* be deviated from. The Intelligencer in its present form, will make an octavo volume of 426 pages in a year, of the earliest and most practical information that can be collected from all medical journals and periodical works both foreign and American, original communications from the most eminent practitioners in various parts of the country, reviews, analyses and the earliest intelligence upon all medical subjects, in as condensed a body as possible. It is proper further to state, that an association has lately been formed, the members of which will regularly contribute to the work; this must give it an interest and character, and a degree of usefulness that it has not before possessed.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—Our acknowledgments are due to Dr Miner and to Dr Wallace for their recent communications—to a correspondent for an interesting report of a surgical operation, by Dr Flint, of this city—also to the Publishing Committee of the N. H. Med. Soc. for a report of a singular case of *Lusus Naturæ*: these shall be published soon. Some papers by Dr Codman, of Philadelphia, are received, of which further notices will shortly be given.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Pleurisy, 1—Drowned, 4—Consumption, 3—Dropsy in the Head, 1—Inflammation, 2—Cramp, 1—Intemperance, 2—Croup, 5—Canker Rash, 1—Lung Fever, 1—Inflammation, 1—Old Age, 1—Childbed, 1—Cancer, 1—Palpitation, 1—Brain Fever, 1—Stillborn, 3. City poor, 2.

MEDICINES, SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, &c.

BARTLETT & BREWER, at the sign of the *Good Samaritan*, No. 92, Washington-Street (late 13, Cornhill), have received by the London and Havre packets, and other late arrivals, a fresh supply of *Drugs, Medicines, Surgical Instruments, and Chemicals*: Among them are Blue Pill, Calomel, Tartar Emetic and Calcined Magnesia, from Apoth. Hall, London: Iodine; Elaterium; Croton Oil; Hydriodate of Potash; Sulph. Quinine; Cheltenham Salts; Colchicum Root and Seeds; Henry's Magnesia.

Amputating, Trepanning, Couching, Midwifery and Dental Instruments; Pocket Cases and separate Instruments; Frenum and Hare-lip Scissors; Extracting and Forcing Probangs; Anatomical Syringes; Laundy's Splints; Carved, Lancet and Triangular Pointed Trocars; Silver Syringes and Stilets for Fist. Lachrymalis.

Gum Elastic Catheters, Bougies, Pessaries, Suppositories, Urinals, Clyster Pipes, Tubes for Extracting Poison from the Stomach, Resuscitating Tubes, Nipple Shields, Caustic Plasters, and Syringes.

Also, kept constantly on hand, a large supply of Stone's much approved Patent Spring Pad Trusses, with an extensive assortment of articles in their line, which they will sell on the most reasonable terms.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, Proprietor, at 184, Washington-Street, corner of Franklin-Street, to whom all communications must be addressed, (post-paid). Price two dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, two dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1826.

NO. 2.

WHITE MUSTARD SEED.

(Concluded from page 13.)

Some remarks are now to be offered on the list of favourable results here ascribed to the use of mustard seed, when taken whole, frequently, and in small portions.

First. We observe that it is on the operations of the alimentary canal, viewed in all its parts that we depend for the conversion of our food into those fluids whence the increase and nourishment of the body, (even in its solid parts,) is afterwards to be derived. If the medicine under consideration assists in this conversion, either by influencing the quantity or the quality of the work performed, it may have important effects on much which is to follow *within the system*.—Hamilton on Purgatives and Abernethy on Stomach complaints, will give confirmation to this remark; whether we consider what ought to enter the system by this channel, or what is to be conducted out of it by this means.—*Secondly.*—The mode of administering this medicine in small quantities, at small intervals, and in an unbroken form, renders its operation universal and incessant, but yet gentle; the virtues of it being gradually and successively developed, down to the last moment of its remaining in the body, and therefore down to the last por-

tion of the alimentary tube. This progressive and protracted operation is the more important, as each part of this tube seems to have a separate office to perform from the preparation of chyme, which is the first step in the concoction of our food; to that of generating chyle,* which appears to be the second; and thence to the formation of *secretions and excretions*, which may be called the third. Had the medicine been given in the powdered form once in the day, it might have operated with too much energy, at a single point of time, in the upper portions of the alimentary tube; and have produced effects too severe to be long borne, as well as too limited in space to be as useful as it ought to have been. These are important principles, and may be modified so as to suit other cases.—*Thirdly.*—If we knew nothing more of the medicine in question, than that it is *stimulant*, this implies a possibility that it may be efficient; and a trial, which is safe, cheap, and easily abandoned, if unpromising, will decide the question. *Fourth.*—Mustard applied to the external surface of the body, being often useful, it is not unreasonable to suppose, that it may be useful also, when applied internally, to so long, so wide, and so sensible a cavity, as that of the alimentary canal, (thereby including the stomach.)

* The relationship between the blood and the chyle is such, that chyle may be called *young blood*; remaining in partnership with the blood, till it becomes perfect blood: so that whatever affects the chyle, affects the blood. Dr J. M. Good will tell the rest in terms as apt to our purpose as the case requires. "From the blood all the solids are derived and nourished, and all the other fluids are secreted; and it is hence the basis or common Pabulum of every part; and as it is the source of general health, so it is also the source of general disease."

Thus then we have discovered, that the medicine in question employed in the manner proposed, *may* have extensive influence on the human frame, as it passes in its course by those several organs, on which depend all this *increase* and all those *repairs* which our body is to receive from our food, as well as much of that *cleansing* which our system daily requires. Each patient may at his convenience decide for himself, whether it is his good luck to be able to *profit* by the experiment; for he certainly need not *suffer* by it.

A few detached observations still remain to be introduced.

First. Mustard is of two kinds; the black and the white. The latter, (which is the garden mustard) although called *white*, is really *yellow*; as what is called *white wine*, is really yellow or brown.

Secondly. It is affirmed by some in England that the mustard seed employed may be too new: but it may be suspected that this assertion is founded on a mistake of some of Dr Cullen's expressions given above.

Thirdly. It is not known what is the preparation of the mustard seed pretended to be used by the seeds-men of London; and Dr Cullen seems to have been ignorant of the necessity of any such preparation.

Fourthly. Notwithstanding all that has been said, many may remain little indisposed to make trial of the proposed remedy; but if one in ten in a situation to require medical attendance on the occasion, shall have other feelings, the trouble here taken will not be regretted.

A few words which follow on the *popular use* of mustard seed, as a mere seasoner of our food, (or as a *condiment* as it is called,) may not be without their interest.—As a mere stimulant, and particularly for children, there is no *reason* for the use of mustard, where it can be dispensed with; since stimulants to aid nature in what she can do alone, are like

using the whip and spur to a willing horse, or cordial liquors where they are not wanted; and thence lessening their efficacy when they become requisite.—A large portion of the poorer classes of mankind in various countries, take some simple article for the *basis* of the solid part of their diet, particularly a vegetable material in warm climates, (as rice, bread, plantains, beans, &c.) and join to it some condiment or seasoning, (as garlic, onions, pepper, salt, oil, acids, &c.;) but the use of mustard is by no means general for this purpose, and perhaps it has not been found to have the qualities to recommend it for *long* periods in *daily use*.—The richer classes, without forgetting *stimulants* on these occasions, add what is *agreeable to their taste*; and sometimes they employ a seasoning or a sauce to the main articles of their food, as a mere corrective. Thus the *same* persons in some countries apply pepper to the crude and unripe cucumber, and to the sweet and well ripened melon, to *correct* the qualities of each; and ardent spirits have often the same double applications. It is as a *corrective*, that mustard is sometimes, by custom, applied to articles supposed difficult of digestion; as to pork: but we repeat, that mustard not being very generally in daily use in any nation, it may be supposed not to have had the suitable qualities for establishing itself for that purpose; and its application as a medicine, therefore, becomes better explained.—But the history of the associations (or symmetries) in the articles of our food, if inquired into, will not be found to form a very consistent chapter; though it would be easy to render it such.

P. S. The hours of English meals at the present day, not agreeing with those remaining in use in the country parts of New England, we shall perhaps not do injustice to our Lincolnshire gentleman, if we give the following rules for using his remedy.

Take it in some fluid, or in any other manner that is agreeable, *thrice* daily; at equal intervals of time; for this purpose, choosing an hour either before or after each meal, and an hour before bed time; the dose being from a tea spoonful to a table spoonful, as shall be found necessary. In extraordinary cases he gives it *four* times daily: and perhaps his distribution of his remedy into 3 or 4 daily ounces, is better than that of Dr Cullen into two. Where there are piles, he opens the body with milk of sulphur and magnesia: and in all cases whatever, he keeps the bowels open, should the mustard fail in this respect. Should the mustard prove purgative, unless there be reason for encouraging this effect, the dose, we say, ought to be reduced, or the medicine laid aside for a time.—Where the remedy is given as a *preventive*, (as in consumptive cases,) he employs it only *once* in the 24 hours. The remedy may be continued, in case of need, for months, without intermission, if found free from inconvenience.

May, 1826.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

MR EDITOR.—I saw with pleasure, and read with satisfaction, the remarks in your paper of the 2d inst. on the neglected subject of VACCINATION, being glad to find, at last, a medical writer in your city, who has the sagacity to perceive, and the candour to acknowledge, that the practice of the KINE POCK INOCULATION requires something more of his attention, than merely putting the virus into his skin, and leaving it to operate and run its course, without any other attention, except that of looking at it *five* days afterward, to see if it had *taken*; and perhaps, about the 12th or 14th day, for securing the scab for future infection. I do not mean to say that *that* has been universally the case, only, that it has been too general for the credit of the prac-

tice, and safety of the people. In some parts of the union, it has been thought sufficient not to see the patient at all, when no physician attended, if the transmitter only inspected the scab, sent to him in a letter from several hundred miles distance. In this creed was not Dr Jenner.

This subject is a very delicate one for me to handle; for when I have appeared to pay close attention to the progressing pustule, [essentially unlike any other ever seen; but coming the nearest to small pox] which may be a *perfect* one on the SEVENTH day, and a *spurious* one on the NINTH, it has sometimes been sneered at, as a species of physical grimace, put on to give to a simple and trifling operation, the solemnity of mystery and importance. Here argument is thrown away, or avoided, as engendering disputes in a business, which rests and turns on a fulcrum of facts. To this we may add, that it is painful to an old soldier, to be obliged to turn out every now and then, under arms, after having defended vaccination, in its disputed march, through an host of enemies, for a space little short of the siege of Troy.

It is now going on seven and twenty years, since I first introduced this blessed prophylactic into our country, and made the first experiment on my own children, and then testing its efficacy by small pox under the able hand of the late Dr Aspinwall. From Cambridge it was spread throughout the Union, and far beyond it. In the region of New England, the small pox, though sometimes introduced, has never, during the long space of a quarter of a century, spread beyond three or four families. It appeared once in the very dense population, chiefly of foreigners, at Craigie's Ville, (alias Lechmere's Point,) but it was confined to one house. In places to the south of us, where less attention is deemed needful, the small pox has been and is even now spreading dismay

and destruction, which might have been circumscribed to much narrower limits, had more attention to the mild distemper in question, been called into requisition.

We sometimes hear it said—"The KINE POCK INOCULATION is a very simple business—any body can perform it. It is not worth the attention of a physician—Let nurses and school-mistresses operate with it." This in one sense is true: so is loading and firing a cannon and mortar; and so likewise is taking care of a powder mill and magazine. Any man, black or white, who has seen it done once, can do it as well as VAUBAN himself: so any man, or woman either, can preserve you from small pox; for it requires neither art, skill, nor experience, and not much care.—Allowed. Yet some how or other, more men have their arms torn off in this country than in the old countries; and powder-mills explode much oftener here than in France, England or Holland. To what is this difference owing?—To luck? or to close attention, the offspring of experience?

It may surprise some, and offend others; but I hesitate not to declare, that I have never yet met but one man who appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the genuine vaccine pustule, and of its complete progress, as such; and this person was not bred to physic; but having suffered every thing but death from the cause of small pox, and being a serious man, of the Methodist communion, he resolved to devote his spared life to the extirpation of the most cruel and loathsome of all diseases: and this he has done, with a degree of success, and in a disinterested spirit of benevolence, which places him, in my opinion, with the *Hanways* and *Howards* of Old England. He has vaccinated upwards of *Eighty Thousand subjects*.

He has also pursued with success, a series of experiments, showing that the KINE POCK may, by many inocu-

lations instituted, at the same time, in different parts of the body, be made to overtake, and subdue, or mitigate the variolous symptoms, already two or three days, after contagion.

I considered this fact to be so important, that, a month or two ago, I sent an account of it to that newspaper in Boston, through which I had made my first communication to the American public, announcing that there had been discovered a *safe, easy, and effectual* mode of disarming the SMALL POX of all its terrors. But as it has never yet appeared, I will transmit it to you if you can make room for it in your next number.

BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE.

Cambridge, 19th May, 1826.

For the Medical Intelligencer.
VACCINATION AN EFFECTUAL PREVENTIVE
OF VARIOLOID.

About a year ago, I had prepared a communication for your paper, stating several facts which led me to a conclusion, the correctness or fallacy of which may be of some importance to mankind. Wishing to add further confirmation to my views of the power of vaccination, another year was allowed for the purpose of observation, and as every new fact adds weight to the sentiment there expressed, I must ask of you the favor to give it to the public. I have reserved the facts and arguments for another opportunity, and am desirous of giving at present only the conclusions to which they have led.

In the first place, it has appeared undoubted that there exists in a great majority of the human family a greater or less natural predisposition to small-pox;—a degree of inflammability which the small-pox infection kindles into a flame.

When the disease has once occurred, this predisposition—this inflammable principle is exhausted; and the torch will pass by it ever after without producing any visible effect.

With this view of the nature of the disease, it has been suggested by numerous facts which came to my knowledge during the prevalence of the varioloid in this country, that in some cases the predisposition is not wholly exhausted by the disease—a portion remains unconsumed, and on exposure to the infection, a slighter degree of the same symptoms as before appeared, is produced. This remnant disorder, though it resembles that which was originally excited, is not so regular in its progress, precise in its appearances, or fatal in its effects, as the primitive small-pox; it is that which is usually termed *varioloid*.

In the second place, *whatever else* will exhaust this predisposition, will render us secure against the disorder; and although the vaccine virus is equally efficacious in producing this effect as the primitive small-pox itself, yet there are cases in which the predisposition exists in so great a degree as not to be entirely exhausted by the vaccine disease. In these cases, although the process be conducted with skill, and it produces its full effect, and the individual is confident of security, yet, if exposed to small-pox infection, this remnant of predisposition is enkindled, and a corresponding eruption takes place in the system. This also is milder than the primitive small-pox, and would be called, in our day, *varioloid*.

Hence it appears that the varioloid occurs after small-pox and after vaccination, and that it is specifically the same as small-pox, but modified by vaccination or the previous development of variola; for it is caused by the same infection acting on the same predisposition, although this last is partially exhausted and comparatively weak.

The last conclusion to which I have been led by a long series of facts and observations, and which may be drawn from what has already been said, is, that, by repeating the

operation of vaccination until it ceases to take effect, this predisposition may be *entirely* exhausted, and the individual be protected from varioloid, as well as the original small-pox. It will be found that in about one case in thirty, it will take a second time; and these are the cases in which the fuel not being wholly exhausted, the small-pox infection would have produced that modified disease which is termed varioloid, but *should* be denominated secondary or modified small-pox.

It should therefore be an invariable rule, when a child has gone through the vaccine disease well once, to vaccinate again, and to repeat the operation till it ceases to take effect—that is, till the predisposition to small-pox is *wholly* exhausted.

R.

Boston, May 13, 1826.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

BIOGRAPHY.

From the time of the Hon. Edward Hopkins, one of the earliest governors of Connecticut, the name has been frequently distinguished by several men of eminence. A branch of the family removed from Hartford to Waterbury in 1680, in which town, in the parish now called Salem, Dr LEMUEL HOPKINS, was born June 19, 1750. The Rev. Samuel Hopkins, D. D. the distinguished theologian, was a native of the same town, and a cousin of his father's. Dr Lemuel Hopkins began the study of his profession under Dr Jared Potter, of Wallingford, and afterwards pursued it with Dr John Bird, of Litchfield, (South Farms.) After having practised some years at Litchfield, he removed to Hartford, where he died April 14, 1801, in the 51st year of his age. He was the most distinguished pupil of his two eminent instructors, being among the first physicians of the state, if not at the head of his profession, for several years previous to his death. In addition to a full practice in Hartford, he was extensively employed in consultation, and had a greater reputation in chronic diseases, more particularly in the early stages of phthisis pulmonalis than any practitioner of his vicinity. He was possessed of a great originality of genius, and had a peculiar facility of investigating the causes and

seats of obscure diseases, the events of which generally proved him to be uncommonly correct and discriminating upon these subjects. Without attempting to enter into the minutiae of his professional life and character, it will be sufficient to remark, that with justice he retained the highest reputation, both in the theory and practice of medicine, of any physician in his county, or perhaps in the state.

It is well known, that from a few years previous to the revolutionary war, to about the year 1800, several branches of literature, and more particularly poetry, were so much cultivated in Connecticut, that the State was frequently, during that period, called the *Athens of America*. Among the most distinguished literary characters, were the Hon. John Trumbull, the Hon. Joel Barlow, Gen. David Humphreys, the Rev. Timothy Dwight, D. D. Noah Webster, L. L. D. the Rev. Nathan Strong, D. D. and Dr Lemuel Hopkins. Beside the work upon various subjects, which most of these gentlemen published with their names, Trumbull, Barlow, and Hopkins, were the joint authors of the *Anarchiad*, a satirical work, which contributed much to draw the attention of the public to the precarious state of the Union, under the *old confederation*. They were probably assisted by Strong and Humphries, and perhaps by Dwight.

Subsequently, the Doctor was associated with Richard Alsop, Esq. the Hon. Theodore Dwight, Mason F. Cogswell, M. D. William Brown, Esq. and several others. The *Echo*, *Political Green-house*, many satirical poems, and several able essays in prose, were produced. This association, it is believed, were occasionally assisted by the Hon. Zephaniah Swift, the Hon. Uriah Tracey, the Hon. Tapping Reeve, and many other public characters of that time. Out of Connecticut, they were generally known by the appellation of the

HARTFORD WITS. They were strong supporters of the administration of Washington, their efforts giving a tone to the public feeling and sentiment in its favour; and their influence was acknowledged to be very great with the literary and cultivated part of the community, not only in their own State, but in all parts of the Union. Of the poetry that was exclusively written by Dr Hopkins, the *Hypoderite's Hope*, and an *Elegy on the Victim of a cancer Quack*, are the best known. As he published nothing with his name, it is difficult to distinguish all the pieces that were written by him.

The associates of Hopkins were a large proportion of the ablest men of the states

and of the day. Under their exertion, and influence, during the last quarter of the eighteenth century, Connecticut was the seat of the Muses in the United States; and her political characters were also prominent in the council of the nation. Previous to his death his friend, and one of his literary associates, Dr Elisha H. Smith, published in one of the London Journals, a well written sketch of his life and character, which was republished in some of the periodical works of this country. Exclusive of this it is believed, no authentic account of him has ever appeared. As a number of his friends and later associates still survive, his scattered works might yet be ascertained, collected, and published in a volume by themselves; and since, after Trumbull, the author of *M'Fingal*, he was the most eminent satirist of his day, they ought to be preserved. Indeed, the literary history of Connecticut, together with the memoirs of the principal characters of that state, during the period in which he flourished, if well written, would be uncommonly interesting, and add much to the reputation of our country. When it is recollect, that about the same time, Mr Hayley was the most popular poet in Great Britain, the taste of that day in Connecticut will bear no inferior comparison with that of England at the same time; as the genius of several of the writers who have been mentioned, was evidently superior to his, and a diction equally polished is to be found in many of their works. On the whole, the latter part of the last century produced a greater number of distinguished poets in America, than have ever appeared at any one time since the first settlement of the country, and the most of them were born, or educated, or resided in Connecticut.

IODINE.

It is several years since this medicine has been in the hands of the faculty, and it is time that we made some report of the result of the experience in its use. On the whole, it has been applauded, like all new medicines, too much; but is of more power and advantage in a few diseases than any remedy previously proposed. It is not a little singular, and no less fortunate, that these diseases are such as have resisted other means of cure. They are—bronchocele, palsy, St. Vitus' dance, scrofula, deafness, and distortion of the spine. On one other complaint its

effects are so decisive as to be entitled to the appellation of specific. The tumor denominated WEN seldom resists its full influence. Of 116 cases, 76 were cured, 10 much relieved, and most were improved by its use. It is best administered in tincture, and in a dose of from ten to thirty drops three times a day. Its external use should be combined with the internal.

WHITE MUSTARD SEED.

The gentleman referred to in our last as giving publicity, in Great Britain, to the effects of white mustard seed in numerous diseases, is neither a Dr nor a Mr, but an Esquire John Turner, of Stoke Rockford, near Grantham. A surgeon of Cheltenham has recently published his own observations respecting this remedy, and dedicated the work to Mr Turner, whose discovery is thus spoken of:—"It deserves to be hailed as one of the most decided discoveries of general usefulness and applicability which has ever been made known, one of the greatest benefits which has ever been dispensed for suffering man. I fully expect it will considerably lengthen human life in this kingdom, and finally be adopted throughout the world." Shall we be the last to avail of this discovery?

SPIRITS OF TURPENTINE.

We have already called the attention of our readers to the virtues of spirits of turpentine in tape-worm, peritoneal inflammation, and the recent influenza. We beg now to inform them that it has been recently applied with great success to the treatment of erysipelas. It is usually given with an equal quantity of castor oil, it procures alvine evacuations without pain or irritation, and produces an immediate effect on the diseased surface. Of secondary consequence is it, whether it acts by producing counter action, or by sympathy. The fact has been observed, and as it is of a practical nature, we record it.

GROUP.

The idea of croup being a contagious disease, has more than once been suggested to the medical public. We have noticed that the disease often attacks several members of the same family, but have never seen any reason to believe it contagious. We should rather, therefore, set it down as a *family* disease, than as entitled to the character of being contagious.

REMEDIES IN GONORRHOEA.

Notwithstanding the high encomiums bestowed by Sir Astley Cooper, and others, on the Cubeb pepper, for the cure of *recent* gonorrhœa, I am sorry to say, that, in my practice, which is extensive, it totally fails in one half the cases. I generally administer from an ounce to an ounce and a half, in six or eight doses, every twenty-four hours, during four, five, or even six days. To patients of an irritable constitution, I give about half that quantity.

In speaking with an *old sailor* the other day, he surprised me by remarking, that *Jack Tar's* mode of treating gonorrhœa was as good as that by cubeb. "You tell me," said he, "that cubeb stimulate and change the action of the affected parts. Now, I suppose powdered black pepper and gin mixed together, act in the same manner; and many a good fellow has been cured by this remedy, instead of being entered on the sick list of the ship's crew."

London Lancet.

VOLATILE OIL OF CUBEBS.—We are informed by Mr Battley that, upon a recent examination of cubeb, he found an *extremely volatile oil*, in the proportion of one ounce and a quarter to the pound. In this oil he apprehends the virtue of the drug to reside,—and if so, the great uncertainty of its effects on disease may be readily accounted for by the supposition that, in many instances, the medicine, when administered, has contained the oil, while in many other instances, the oil may have escaped. If the virtue of the substance should be found to reside in this oil, we apprehend the discovery

will be a very important one, as we shall then have a remedy for gonorrhœa in as small a compass as we have for ague in arsenic or quinine. We advise trials to be immediately made with the oil.—*Medico-Chirurgical Review.*

LACHRYMAL NERVE.—It is stated, in the Medical Repository, on the authority of a private letter from Paris, that M. Amusat has discovered the lachrymal nerve to be a branch of the sympathetic, or fourth pair, and not, as has hitherto been supposed, of the ophthalmic portion of the fifth. It is stated, also, that Richerand confirmed the fact. If this turn out to be true, it will be extremely interesting when taken in connexion with the late splendid discoveries of M. Charles Bell.—*Anderson's Med. Journal.*

"Notice of Dr Caldwell's Elements of Phrenology," &c. will be inserted soon.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Brain Fever, 2—Consumption, 6—Canker Rash, 1—Debility, 1—Delirium Tremens, 1—Dropsy in the chest, 1—Dysentery, 1—Palsy, 2—Scarlet Fever, 1—Unknown, 3—Stillborn, 1. Males, 10—Females, 10.

Vaccination.

THE undersigned devotes his professional time chiefly to the business of Vaccination, and to the preservation of the genuine vaccine matter for the use of others.

Physicians will be regularly supplied with matter for any period of time they may agree for, not less than six years, for an annual fee of 5 dollars payable in advance.

Tickets will also be issued from this Institution that will entitle any Physician or other citizen of the United States, to vaccine matter, on the following terms, viz: *Private Tickets at ten dollars each*, that will entitle the holders of the same to fresh matter as often as they may have occasion to use it for three years; and *Public Tickets at thirty dollars each*, that will entitle all persons residing in the neighbourhood of any particular Post Office (large towns and cities excepted) to the same privilege for a like period of time. Private Tickets are to be held by the purchasers themselves and for their own use; and

Public Tickets by the Post Masters through whose particular offices all applications for matter forwarded must be made.—Surgeons of the Army and Navy of the U. S. will be furnished with genuine vaccine matter at all times, free of any expense.

All the privileges of this Institution and advantages heretofore offered to Physicians and others, will be secured to them agreeably to their respective engagements with the undersigned.

No letter addressed to the undersigned will be received at any time unless the Postage thereon is paid.

Vaccine Institution,
Baltimore, 16th Sept. 1825.

JAMES SMITH.

The introduction of the Small-Pox into North Carolina about four years since, and which occasioned the repeal of the Law "to encourage Vaccination," was not the result of any mistake made by Dr Smith, as he was at first induced to believe. It has since been discovered and shown that this fatal occurrence is to be attributed entirely to a wicked trick, that was unsuspected at the time, and could not have been guarded against by any person. For a more full account of it, however, the reader who feels interested is referred to a letter addressed by Dr Smith, 3d February, 1824, to Mr Clay, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to a subsequent report of a Committee in Congress to whom it was referred. This report exculpates Dr Smith from all blame, and recommends the adoption of his entire plan for the general distribution of the vaccine matter.

Sept. 27.

Anatomical Preparations.

NINE elegant ANATOMICAL PREPARATIONS in WAX, made by H. WILLIAMS, for sale at Auction, on the 30th inst. at the Hall over Mr Cunningham's Auction Room, in Milk-street, lately occupied as the HUBARD GALLERY.

The PREPARATIONS to be exhibited the day previous, and on the day of sale. Tickets of admission, 25 cents. The object of this arrangement is to prevent the great crowd of the citizens, which might prevent those from purchasing who wish it.

Tickets to be had at H. Williams's No. 1, School-street, and at the Hall door; a cursory description of them in writing may be seen at the Hall.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, Proprietor, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St. to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid). Price two dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, two dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 1826.

NO. 3.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

CRITICAL NOTICE.

Elements of Phrenology, by CHARLES CALDWELL, M. D. Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Clinical Practice, in Transylvania University. Lexington, Ky. Thomas T. Skillman. 1824.

Phrenology, which of late has gained so many advocates and admirers abroad, is getting, we perceive, in our own country to be a very popular and interesting branch of natural science; and, whatever may be thought or said of it by those who have never read a syllable upon the subject—who are ignorant of its history, its nature, its principles and importance, we are bound to confess that, those who have seriously attended to it, have generally been enamored of the science, and found it eminently worthy of their study and commendation. Indeed, its progress in this country has been quite rapid, and it seems to be recommending itself with much force to the attention of the learned, the candid and intelligent of all classes, as one of the most rational and ingenious systems of the philosophy of mind, that has hitherto been suggested to the world. For ourselves, we have found it a very agreeable study, and freely confess we think favorably of the science. It is founded upon facts and observations, and as such, is worthy of the most attentive and candid examination. At first view of the subject, we thought lightly of the doctrines of Gall and Spurzheim—like many others, we were sceptical upon the subject—but having devoted some attention to it,

and found it so plausible and interesting, and so easy to be understood withal, that we have resolved to recommend it to our readers, with a reasonable expectation that they will be pleased with a science which opens such a wide field for interesting inquiry, and whose principles admit of such a diversity of application to human life and conduct. Like every branch of philosophy, it has met with opposition. Like every discovery in science, from Galileo to Symmes, it has encountered a host of adversaries, who have at the outset raised their standard of rebellion, and waged against it—a war of extermination; and the vein of wit and ridicule has been exhausted in endeavoring to prove it to be "nothing more than the abortive offspring of a warm imagination, unsusceptible of any useful application to enlighten the mind, or to accelerate its progress." But the war of opposition has ceased—the adversaries of the doctrine, having hastily thrown the glove, without preparing their armour for defence, have now fallen prostrate, and are powerless. They have reckoned without their host, and many of the vanquished, overcome by the multitude of facts and weight of experience, have sought alliance with this new system, and are firm believers in its usefulness and truth. Every day, in fact, we see them falling around us, and rising again to become zealous advocates of the doctrines which at first they contended and railed against with so much bitterness and folly. Nor are these changes wrought with the medical profession alone, but among the most intelligent and observing of

all classes—the lawyer, statesman, and divine. In fact, among all who have candidly examined the subject, the observations of Gall and Spurzheim have been extended and confirmed; and the various societies which have sprung up in different parts of Europe and this country, and the several courses of lectures which have been given, for the avowed purpose of diffusing general information in regard to this science, by the collection of facts and observations, sufficiently prove that their anticipations have not been altogether chimerical. “By setting the example of submitting every thing to the test of observation and experience, they have dissipated much of the prejudice which has long reigned in the sciences, and which the strongest minds of the preceding centuries have not been able to resist. They are now opposing to empiricism a mass of knowledge and facts, against which the errors adopted by the vulgar, with an enthusiasm which, in former times, would have perpetuated their empire, have spent their force in vain.” In a word, they have conceived a grand, beautiful, and ingenious theory of the human intellect, which, far more clear and comprehensive than any system of metaphysics hitherto invented, is now brought within the reach of the multitude, and entitled to special encouragement from its innumerable applications to the phenomena of nature, the philosophy of human actions, and the practice of the arts.

What system of metaphysics, we beg to know, has hitherto developed a single intelligible, satisfactory idea, in relation to the phenomena of mind? Who that has written upon it, from Locke to Stewart, from Aristotle to Brown, has been able to dissipate the gross darkness which overshadows this portion of natural philosophy, and bring to light the true nature and operations of the mind? We confess, the more we

have read these authors, the more we have been confused, and we feel ourselves indebted to Gall and Spurzheim for the only rational and comprehensive ideas we have been able to obtain in reference to the philosophy of mind. We render our thanks, however, to Dr. Caldwell, the learned and worthy Professor of Transylvania University, and the author of the excellent treatise on phrenology which stands at the head of our paper, and which is richly deserving a more extended notice than at present we are able to give it. We thank him for the lively exposition he has given of the system—for the able and satisfactory manner in which he has defended it from hatred and malice, and all uncharitableness—for stifling the ridicule and prejudice which the ignorant and witty have been ready to indulge against it—for revealing it more fully to the wise and simple, and rendering it a most rational, agreeable, and fascinating study of the human mind.

“This publication,” says the author in his introduction, “is but little more than a horn book on the subject, being a mere digest of a few lectures delivered by him in his course of instruction on the institutes of medicine. He prints it at the request of his class, to whom it will serve as a remembrancer of what they have already heard, while it may indicate to others topics of inquiry, which, without some aid of the kind, might not have occurred to them. He hopes it will not be without its influence in achieving one object further. By making the real principles of the science better and more extensively known, and presenting them in the innocence which rightfully belongs to them, it will remove, or at least weaken, conscientious scruples, and lead to honest research.” On the whole, we give it the passport of our approbation, and recommend it to our readers as a work of decided merit.

altogether worthy of the author's distinguished reputation as a philosopher, moralist and physician, and alike reputable to his head and his heart. It will do more, we believe, than any other work, to introduce into men's houses this new philosophy, and we sincerely hope for its more extended circulation, both at home and abroad.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

BIOGRAPHY.

Dr PHILIP TURNER, a very celebrated operative surgeon, was born at Norwich, Conn., 1740. At the age of 12, being left an orphan destitute of property, he was taken into the family, and under the patronage of Dr Elisha Tracey, of that town, who deservedly stood high in the public opinion, as a classical scholar, a practical physician, and a man distinguished for his moral and social virtues.

Here TURNER was treated with the kindness of a child, and at a suitable age commenced his medical studies, under the eye of his patron. In the year 1759, he was appointed assistant surgeon to a provincial regiment, under General Amherst, at Ticonderoga. His handsome person and pleasing address soon attracted the attention of the English surgeons, by whom he was treated with much courtesy, and invited to witness many of their capital operations.

It was from the information and practice he obtained in this school, that he laid the foundation of his future eminence as an operator. He continued with the army till after the peace of 1763, when he returned to the house of his benefactor, (whose eldest daughter he soon after married,) and settled in Norwich, as a practitioner of surgery. His practice and reputation were such, that at the breaking out of the revolutionary war, he was unrivalled, as a surgeon, in the eastern section of the country. During the first campaign, he was the first surgeon of the Connecticut troops before Boston. He went with the army to New York in 1776, and in consequence of the battles of Long Island and White Plains, a favourable opportunity was afforded him of displaying his professional talents as an operator, which gained him the highest character with the army.

In 1777, Dr Turner was nominated and appointed by Congress Director-general, to superintend the general hospital, but on a motion for re-consideration, the ap-

pointment was given to Dr Shippen, of Philadelphia, and Dr Turner was appointed Surgeon-general of the eastern department, which station he filled with great ability till near the close of the war. He then returned to his family, and resumed his private practice. In this he continued with undiminished reputation till 1800, when finding himself advancing in years, and feeling the fatigues of extensive country practice, he removed to New York, considering a city better adapted to his period of life. His business here was soon respectable, and he was shortly after appointed a surgeon to the staff of the United States army, and was permanently stationed on York island, with the medical and surgical care of the troops in that quarter. This station he held at his death, which occurred in the spring of 1815, in the 75th year of his age. He was interred with military honours.

Dr. Turner, though not an academical scholar, received a good early education, and was naturally of a ready mind, with much sprightliness and suavity of manners. To these were united a handsome person, and pleasing address, with a kind of intuitive capacity, peculiarly qualifying him for the profession of surgery. On this subject, his judgment was uncommonly accurate, and with a firm mind, and a steady dexterity of hand, his operations were ably performed, and attended with an almost unparalleled success. Dr Shippen did him the honour to say, that neither in Europe or America had he ever seen an operator that excelled him. In about twenty operations of lithotomy, it is said, that all but two cases were perfectly successful. Dr Turner is an instance of one rising to the highest professional eminence, who never studied or travelled out of his own country.

SUSCEPTIBILITY OF IMPRESSION.

Susceptibility of Impression is one of the most wonderful of the properties of life. It is the capability of being influenced, and excited to action, by the application of certain agents or causes. It has been called, also, *irritability* and *excitability*, and may be considered as a simple kind of *feeling*, though unattended with consciousness. The only proof we have of the existence of this principle, is the changes which parts undergo, in consequence of certain applications being made to them. This proper-

ty exists universally in all living beings,—plants, as well as animals,—and in almost every part of them. parts of animals which are thus susceptible of impression when applications are made to them, are called *irritable* parts. Almost all parts are *irritable*, either entire, or in their component parts. Thus, though bones, cartilages, and tendons, are not observed to have any perceptible motion excited in them by *irritation*, yet the individual parts of which they are composed, as blood-vessels, absorbents, &c., effect important changes in their structures, which are thus proved to be *irritable*, i. e. susceptible of impression.

The applications, or causes which make an impression, and excite emotion, in living beings, are termed *stimuli*, or exciting powers. The impressions thus made, though followed by action, we are not, in general, conscious of. Thus, the food excites the stomach, and the blood the heart and vessels, to perform their respective actions, without our being at all sensible or conscious of such impressions being made. In the same way, the most important functions, those the most essential to life, are carried on, without our being conscious of the impression being made, or our knowing, by any particular feeling, what is going on in the system. In the same way, the causes of disease often act upon us insensibly: and we know nothing of their application, till they have produced their effects, as in the case of contagion, &c.

It is upon this principle, also, viz., the susceptibility, irritability, or excitability of the body, that medicines generally act, for we seldom feel first impressions, and only become sensible to their more remote effects, as in the case of bark, mercury, arjenic, &c.

This susceptibility of impression, or irritability, is greater or less, according to various circumstances. It

is greater in some parts than in others,—as the stomach compared with the skin. The former is open to a number of impressions which the latter is insensible to. Thus ipecacuanha, taken into the stomach, produces an impression of which we are not distinctly conscious, but which is soon followed by violent action, yet the same substance applied to the skin produces no effect. The susceptibility differs with age; it is greater in young persons than in old ones; so that the same degree of stimulus will produce a greater effect in the former than in the latter. Hence, therefore, in the application of agents to the body, we are not only to take into account the force of the impression, but the degree of susceptibility also.

The susceptibility of impression is different in health and in disease. In some diseases, it is much increased; in others, it is diminished: of the latter, we have instances in brain affections.

This property is greater in some individuals than in others; this is to be remembered in the administration of medicines. One person requires a double and treble dose of the same substance, to produce the same effect. Unfortunately, we have no certain means of judging of the degree of susceptibility possessed by different bodies. We give medicines to produce certain effects, but we are always doubtful whether these effects will be produced. Sometimes, from a previous knowledge of the individual, we are enabled to judge in some degree, but never without doubt.

Both when in excess and when deficient, susceptibility of impression predisposes to disease, though of different kinds. When in excess, it disposes to inflammation and spasm; when deficient, it is attended with torpor and inaction, and their consequences.

It is influenced by medicines, and various other things. Thus *narcot-*

ics and tonics diminish irritability, while mercury, on the contrary, increases it. These effects are seen in the influence of climate, not only on the human body, but on all living beings.

Susceptibility of impression, or irritability, seems even to differ in *kind*, as well as in *degree*, in different beings, and in different parts, owing probably to the difference in structure. Thus applications, such as medicines and poisons, may have no influence on some animals, which, nevertheless, prove destructive to others. Hence also, one part is impressively forced by one agent, which another is scarcely at all affected by. Thus *carbonic acid*, which, when inhaled into the lungs, quickly destroys life, by suspending the vital functions, acts, on the contrary, as a *cordial* in the stomach, and invigorates, for a time, the whole system. So it is with different kinds of animals. An agent which upon one will act violently, may produce no effect upon another. Many things, which operate mildly upon human subjects, produce a contrary effect on animals. For instance, oil of turpentine has no great power of stimulating the human skin; but that of the horse is very susceptible of the impression of this agent, and very violent inflammation is quickly produced by it. It is on this account, that in experimenting on different animals, we are not to conclude that the same effect will follow on one as on another tribe. Generally speaking, the susceptibility of the horse is much less than that of man; but the fact above mentioned constitutes one of those exceptions which prevent our relying too much on analogy.

We have the same evidence of plants possessing this principle of susceptibility, or irritability, or *simple* feeling, that we have of animals; namely, the *changes* which follow the application of *stimuli* to them; and which, being the result of move-

ments that are spontaneous, and not mechanical merely, prove, that such indications were, in some way, felt or perceived by them.

POLYPUS.

Polypus of the nose is a very common and troublesome disease. We have frequently seen it among all ages, in the male and the female, and always found it difficult to remove. Nothing, however, is more common than *infallible remedies* for this complaint, as calomel and blood-root, asarabacea and ammonia, &c. &c., a pinch or two of which is *sure to remove the disease in a week or two*, while, in fact, it is constantly made worse, and the only effectual mode of getting rid of it, is bruising, excision or extraction. We know by much experience in this complaint, that not any or all of these boasted remedies, except in the simplest cases of relaxation of the schneiderian membrane, will have the slightest good effect. The very application of these irritating substances will often produce the disease, and we have reason to believe the use of *snuff*, in some cases, has been the sole cause in producing it. It is occasioned also by frequent colds or catarrhs, obstruction of the blood-vessels of the head and neck, and by *close collars and cravats*; and the repetition of the disease, in such cases, after its removal, is only to be prevented by avoiding the exciting cause.

The best surgical writers notice three varieties of this disease: 1st. The "*fleshy polypus*", which is a red, soft, sensible, healthy looking tumor, free from pain, and is the mildest of the whole species. 2d. The *malignant polypus* which is hard, scirrhouous and painful, bleeds profusely on slight causes, and is attended with pain on the forehead, and the root of the nose. 3d. *Polypus of the mucous membrane of the nostril*, which is tough, of a pale color, and a viscid secretion exudes from its surface. It is a mere elongation of the schneiderian membrane—indeed, the whole membrane of the nose

is sometimes so relaxed and thickened, as to obliterate its cavities. There are other species of polypi mentioned by authors, as the soft, brittle, and vesicular or hydatid, &c. Mr John Bell doubts the existence of malignant polypi, and supposes them all essentially alike, and that the pain, caries, ulceration, &c. are the effect of pressure and distention. Mr S. Cooper is of the same opinion."

As for the cure of this troublesome complaint, we remark, we know of none except bruising, excision, or extraction. This may be effected by forceps or the probe-pointed scissors, the ligature, in most, if not all cases, being inadmissible, and seldom applied. The forceps in common use are good for nothing—they are too large and unwieldy, and for an effectual operator worse than useless—and we have repeatedly seen the most celebrated surgeons employ them unsuccessfully, to their own mortification, and the greatest discomfiture of their patients. By a smaller instrument, however, we can often seize hold of the root of the tumor, and extract it, or by gently bruising it, destroy it altogether. A still better way of removing the disease, is to use the probe-pointed scissors, as recommended and practised by Sir Astley Cooper. This is the simplest and most effectual of all operations for removing polypi; for we have only to pass the instrument to the neck of the tumor and divide it, and the patient is rid of it forever. Astringent injections and the careful application of caustic, will prevent any further growth of the disease.

ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

The pain and protracted confinement consequent on this disease, render it not only a source of much bodily suffering, but of frequent disappointment and unavailing sorrow. The man of business regards the acute pain of rheumatism as a trifle, compared with the inconvenience it causes, by interrupting, for so long a time, the progress of his affairs. Is it impossible to afford relief to such men?

can we not find some remedy which will shorten, if we can find none which can cure, this disease? It is a laudable and well-directed zeal which has induced some of our transatlantic brethren to bend their attention of late to this interesting subject. We doubt not that we also might add something to the weight of newly acquired knowledge of the treatment of this disease, if we were not satisfied to follow in the beaten track, and to say, that, since the course prescribed to us in the last century will not put a stop to the disease, it must *run its course*, and cannot be cured. When a physician tells the sick man that his disorder must *run its course*, the patient ought to know that if this is the case, he has no need of a doctor. This expression is too common among us, it is an apology for ignorance, it is always the language of negligence, stupidity, or avarice, and should never come from the lips of a man who dares to assume the responsibility of the lives of his fellow men. Every disease would run its course if left without medical interference. If the physician does any thing, he checks it; if he does not check it, he does nothing.

The disease under consideration is one which is left most generally to pursue its own tardy progress, and seldom leaves the patient till after a visitation of from three to six months. Among the remedies recently proposed for arresting this malady, is the Arsenical Solution of Dr Fowler, which, given in a dose of 6 to 10 drops, every three or four hours, is said to have great efficacy in interrupting the chain of symptoms. The sulphate of quinine, also given in large doses and often, is said to be as effectual in acute rheumatism as in intermittent fever. If on further trial these results shall be found to be uniform, they will constitute an important practical improvement in our science. If otherwise, we ought then to be more zealous in searching for a weapon, with which we may contend, with more hope of success than we now do, with so annoying and obstinate an enemy.

TO ADMINISTER NAUSEOUS MEDICINES.

BY A. CARTWRIGHT, M. D.

The best plan of giving medicines in cases of great irritability of the stomach, which neither sulphuric ether, opium, effervescent mixtures, &c. will allay, has heretofore been with me a desideratum in practice. The fate of a patient frequently depends on minutæ, too often unattended to in practice. It is an easy matter to prescribe aloes, scammony, jalap, &c. in order to purge a patient, who is constantly sick at his stomach. But the object of the prescription is often entirely defeated, in consequence of the patient refusing to take these remedies; or if he takes them by the impossibility of his being able to retain them on his stomach. The best plan I ever tried, of giving these, and similar nauseous medicines, so as to obviate inconvenience of their disagreeable taste, and to prevent them from being vomited, is to have the various purgative articles made into a soft mass with syrup. Any given quantity of this mass, is to be enclosed in a very thin wafer, made of flour, and softened by being soaked a few minutes in water or milk. The enclosed mass is then put into a spoon with a little water in it, out of which the patient is to swallow it. After this manner, a patient can take *at one dose, a mass sufficient to make a dozen pills*, and he cannot without the strongest efforts, throw it up from his stomach; he tastes nothing but the flour wafer, and the nausea of his stomach is not increased, as it would be from his swallowing a quantity of bitter pills. In this way, a large quantity of Peruvian bark may be given at a dose, without the patient's tasting it. One table spoonful of flour, made into a *batter* with water, is sufficient to make sixty wafers. The plan of making them is, to have two smoothing irons heated, one of which is to be placed with its face upwards, on which a few drops of

the batter is to be poured, and the other iron is then to be pressed upon it. The little cake, or wafer, thus made, is, as I before observed, to be soaked in water before using it, in order to make it sufficiently pliant to enclose the medicine. I venture to assert, that whoever tries this plan of giving nauseous drugs, &c., in cases of great irritability of the stomach, will seldom prescribe them in pills, syrup, or solution. Calomel, however, can be very conveniently given, floating on a table-spoonful of common cold water. A table spoonful of water will float two scruples, if the calomel be not in lumps, and if it be sifted down lightly on the water. Spirits of turpentine should be purified by mixing it with alcohol, as directed by Dr Nemmo.* With these remarks on the manner of administering remedies in cases of great irritability of the stomach; remarks, though seemingly of little importance every where else, may not be entirely so at the bed-side of the sick, I close.

VAPOUR BATH.—At the fourth anniversary meeting in London, March 27, the society for cure of scrofula and glandular disease, on Mr Whitlaw's principles, a letter was read from Dr James Hamilton, stating facts within his knowledge tending to prove the utility of the Medicated Vapour Bath in violent and *desperate* cases. The following is from the Report. Every attempt to form accurate judgment on medical subjects, the committee have utterly disclaimed. They (the committee) have been disappointed in their expectations of encouragement from medical practitioners. By reports from the United States it seems that Mr Whitlaw has been successful in medicating vapour by herbs.† Many medical gentlemen as a proof of their approbation of his system (as his letter will clearly show) have formed societies (or corporations) in *Massachusetts*, &c.—Of more than 670 persons, who the last year received *advice* and *medicine* in London, where Mr Whitlaw's system is regularly pursued, in two only have they failed in the accomplishment of their most sanguine expectations; and these were much improved in health.

* See New-England Journal, vol. XI. p. 321.

† In Boston the vapour is generally medicated with herbs, frequently with rose-leaves, &c.—something to make it pleasant, according to the bather's pleasure.

Jenckes' Patent Alleviator.

THE subscriber having made an arrangement for introducing this invaluable Instrument in the city of Boston, any family who may have one of their number so sick as to require the exertions of their friends to lift them for any purpose, can be accommodated with the use of the Alleviator by calling on Mr WILLIAM HANCOCK, No. 39, Market-street, or on Mr EDMUND PARSONS, No. 10, Portland-street, who has undertaken to put them up when and where they may be wanted, and attend to the use of them. Any person wishing for further information, will please to apply as above.

JOHN C. JENCKES.

Mr JENCKES has many Certificates, from the Medical Society, and from many eminent surgeons in the U. S. recommending them to the public, among which are the following, viz:—

Certificate from John C. Warren, M. D. of Boston, Principal of the Massachusetts Hospital.

Mr J. C. Jenckes having requested my opinion of his Machine for raising the sick and wounded from bed, I have examined it, and found it well calculated for the purpose. In order to test its practical utility, I desired him to convey it to the Massachusetts General Hospital, and have repeatedly employed it there; particularly in a case of fractured thigh, accompanied with delirium, and found it highly useful. Considering it therefore a valuable invention, I very heartily recommend it for the use of hospitals, and for all private patients who may be in need of it.

JOHN C. WARREN, *Principal Mass. Hospital.*

Boston, June 16, 1823.

Lynn, 25th Feb. 1825.

DR CHOATE,—This comes to you by the hands of MR JENCKES, the inventor of an apparatus for raising from the bed, persons whose infirmities or injuries from fractures or other causes have usually rendered a long confinement necessary.

MR JENCKES is furnished with numerous certificates from eminent surgeons, respecting the advantages of his machine, and in justice to his mechanical ingenuity and philanthropic character, I subjoin an account of an important case, in which I feel assured, the patient's life has been preserved by the assistance of this apparatus.

R. T., a respectable lady, aged 55, unusually corpulent, by a fall on the ice

fractured the right thigh bone at the neck. The usual reduction and dressings were attended to, and during the first two weeks the patient appeared to do well. It was then discovered that by the continued pressure on the back and hips, inflammation had taken place and gangrene and mortification were rapidly succeeding. The state of the fractured limb, the size of the patient, and the nervous excitement under which she laboured, precluded or rendered extremely inconvenient, the necessary dressing to those diseased parts. The patient was rapidly sinking and in the opinion of an eminent surgeon who was called in consultation, there was but a faint prospect of her recovery.—At this critical period Mr JENCKES visited Lynn, bringing with him one of his machines, which was immediately employed, and to the facilities afforded by this in the frequent dressings now become necessary, I am ready to attribute the rapid recovery of the patient from her dangerous situation.

That the advantages of this invention may be widely extended, and suffering humanity be relieved from many of its burdens is the ardent desire of

Your obedient servant,
JOHN LUMMUS, M. D.

Philadelphia, Nov. 8, 1825.

I have within the last few weeks in two cases of compound fractures, near the ankle joint, used with the most decided benefit the "Alleviator" of Mr Jenckes. Without hesitation I pronounce it a very valuable contrivance.

WM. GIBSON, M. D., *Professor of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania.*

Certificate from the Physicians and Surgeons of the New York Hospital.

The undersigned Physicians and Surgeons of the New York Hospital, having examined and witnessed the application of Mr John C. Jenckes' new invention of a Machine for raising the sick from their beds, unite in recommending the same as peculiarly useful for the purposes for which it is intended.

DAVID HOSACK, M. D.
JOHN NELSON, M. D.
JOHN C. CHESSMAN, M. D.
JOHN WATTS, JR., M. D.
VALENTINE MOTT, M. D.
WRIGHT POST, M. D.
THOMAS COCK, M. D.
ALEX. H. STEVENS, M. D.

New-York, July 15, 1823,

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1826.

NO. 4.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

SMALL POX AND KINE POCK.—NO. 2.

One among the wonders of the prophylactic powers of Kine Pock and Small Pox is, that their pustules should be so much alike, and yet so different.

The late Dr ASPINWALL, a man of great sagacity, and uncommonly well grounded in the principles of his profession, gave evidence of it on the first sight of a vaccine pustule. I had invited all the elder physicians of Boston and the vicinity of Cambridge to see the first vaccine pustules ever raised in the new world. They gave them the ordinary inspection of an unusual eruption on the skin ;—all but Dr Aspinwall, whose attention was riveted on the pustule, its areola and efflorescence. He came a second time, and viewed the inoculated part in every light, and reviewed it, and seemed loth to leave the sight of it. He seemed wrapped in serious thought, and said repeatedly—“this pustule is so like small pox, and yet it is not small pox, that, should it on scabbing take out a portion of the true skin, so as to leave an indelible mark or pit behind, I shall be ready to conclude, that it is a mild species of small pox, hitherto unknown here.” He had been in the habit of examining the small pox pimple and pustule, through glasses, to know if it “had taken ;” and he remarked that they were peculiar, *unique*, and unlike any other eruption he ever saw ; but that this *Kine Pock* came the nearest to it. Sometime after, I gave him a portion of the virus to make

his own experiments, and observe the progress of its inoculation, and coincidence of the constitutional symptoms, when he observed, that its progress, febrile affection, and mode of scabbing were *very like* small pox, and so of the indelible mark left on the arm ; yet throughout the whole visible affection, *different*. To crown the whole of his honourable conduct, he some time afterwards took all those of my family whom I had vaccinated, into his Small-pox hospital, the only licensed one in the state, and there tested them to his satisfaction, and one of them to the very verge of rigid experiment ; and then he said to me and to others—“*this new Inoculation of yours, is no SHAM. As a man of humanity, I rejoice in it ; although it will take from me a handsome annual income.*” His conduct throughout was so strongly marked with superior intelligence, generosity and honour, as to excite my esteem and respect ; and I accordingly dedicate this effusion of gratitude to the memory of the HONORABLE WILLIAM ASPINWALL, M. D.;* a gentleman respectable in public life as a counsellor, and an honour to his profession as a physician.

Led to notice the affinity between *Small Pox* and *Kine Pock*, I entertained a notion (although Kine Pock gives out only that one pustule, where the matter is inserted, whereas the number of pustules in Small Pox is indefinite, and the fewer, the lighter the disease) that if we should insert the vaccine matter by several thousand punctures, we should create as high a fever, and have as dis-

* Dr Aspinwall took his degree of M. B. in the University of Pennsylvania, about the year 1768, and graduated at Cambridge in 1764.

tressing symptoms as in Small Pox,—that the load on the surface would be as great, and the danger commensurate. I conceived the disorder would be not only more violent, but more rapid. But it did not occur to me to vaccinate by numerous punctures with a view to EXPEDITE the distemper, so as to overtake a previous infection of Small Pox, and by meliorating it, disarm that terrible distemper of nearly all its terrors; which experiment, with this view, was reserved to reward with honour the indefatigable labours of *Sylvanus Fancher*, and therefore let honour be given to whom honour is due. But let that gentleman speak for himself. He says, that,

"In the year 1805 I witnessed the anguish and death of a beautiful little girl, at Stamford, in Connecticut, who had been exposed, it was thought, to small pox, and for whose relief I had come the distance of one hundred miles with the vaccine virus, but when I arrived, I found the child had been inoculated with small pox matter, from which it perished. This pitiful case, together with another like it, equally distressing, made an indelible impression on my mind. But how to go to work in future to prevent this evil, and eradicate the small pox from the inoculated arm, and save the patient from the various infection, I knew not; and it occupied my thoughts by night and by day.

"Not long after, I noticed the rapid progress of four vaccine pustules on the arms of a lad, who had been exposed to small pox, and which I had doubly charged the punctures with fresh virus. All four of the pustules showed as strong marked areola on the 8th day, as is usually seen on the 10th. It came into my mind a frequent observation I had made, that when the puncture was performed by a needle, or a very slight touch indeed of a keen lancet, the pustule progressed more slowly.

Putting these facts together, I determined to vaccinate the next person I should be called to, under apprehensions of having taken the small pox, with broad, double and treble punctures on the shoulders,—along the collar bones,—on the breast,—on the trunk of the body,—on the thighs, arms, and legs;—I did so; and by so doing I have had the happiness of saving them from the violence of small pox.

"I have since had repeated opportunities of seeing the sore on the arms of such as were inoculated with small pox, wither and fade away under the multiplied punctures of the KINE POCK virus. The venom of it seemed subdued, and rendered harmless, and even blasted before it had progressed to the size of a barley-corn."

"It may be asked, why has not this important fact been more spoken of? I answer, because people had run away with an idea that the Small Pox was entirely extirpated, and that it would be soon struck out of the catalogue of diseases and human miseries. But this opinion is fraught with mischief, and requires a general counteraction. The monster is rearing his wounded head, and will continue to rear it, unless some more effectual remedies be taken for its destruction, than hitherto have been adopted amongst us."

"Vaccination takes the same time to affect the system as the small pox does, provided both are inoculated in the same manner. It has been my lot, says Dr *Sylvanus Fancher*, to visit the abodes of distress and alarm, where some one of the family had accidentally caught small pox, sickened, and exposed the family many days before the nature of the disease was known; and yet I have saved them by the method I have related."

"I have witnessed scenes too shocking to describe among some of our soldiers on the Canadian frontiers who perished by casual small pox. I

have vaccinated their exposed comrades, and by forcing the process as already related, have saved them all."

A letter from Dr FANCHER to Dr WATERHOUSE, dated New Haven, Connecticut, March, 20th, 1826.

"SIR—Agreeable to my promise in my last, I now relate the particulars of an experiment to accelerate the progressive stages of vaccination. As you took so lively an interest in the result of my former experiments, and wrote to me in 1808, that you had no doubt of the practicability of EXPEDITING vaccination, you will be gratified to see the truth of this hypothesis fully confirmed by experiments; and will probably be pleased to diffuse the knowledge of the same among your numerous medical and literary correspondents through the world."

See the COLUMBIAN REGISTER, printed at NEW HAVEN, March 21, 1826, in which the experiments are detailed, and to which is annexed the following certificates, viz.:—

"We, the subscribers, having examined into the situations of eight persons, in the family of Isaac Williams, who died on the 21st of Feb. of the small pox, we find they were all inoculated with the small pox taken from Mr Williams on the 16th of Feb., and four of those persons, about two hours afterwards, were vaccinated by Dr Sylvanus Fancher.—We find also, those persons who received the Kine Pock have not been infected with small pox,—that vaccination has had its regular course, except its greater forwardness than common, [occasionsed by inserting the virus in many places in the legs, arms and body, by broad punctures or incisions, so as to infect a larger surface of the skin,] although they lived, eat and drank together,—while the other four are labouring under small pox."

(Signed)

NATHAN SMITH, Professor of Physic, Hanover,

NAHUM TRASK,

LINUS STEVENS,

GERSHOM NEWTON,

JOHN GALLOP,

JOHN HARROONE,

DAVID DICKENSON,

RUSSELL LEAVITT.

} Physicians.

erate the progressive stages of the Kine Pock, and force it to an earlier crisis than usual, by Sylvanus Fancher, in which he succeeded in saving them from the small pox, although they had been exposed to the contagion of the small pox from four to five days previous to vaccination, and had also been previously inoculated with small pox infection, I therefore feel it incumbent on me to state, that I consider it an important improvement, and calculated to give relief in certain cases, where the common practice would fail.

"The plan of inserting the vaccine infection in many places, as far as I know, originated with *Sylvanus Fancher*."

NATHAN SMITH, Professor of Physic in Yale College.

The following letter appeared in the same New Haven paper, the Columbian Register, of March 21st, 1826.

A letter from Dr WATERHOUSE to Dr FANCHER, dated Cambridge, March 6th, 1826.

DEAR SIR,

From the newspapers which I received directly after our letter of the 22d of February, I learnt that you are publishing the result of your trials in hastening the constitutional affection of the Kine Pock, with a view that VACCINIA should overtake, and outstrip VARIOLA; or in other words, and plainer terms, that vaccination should not only head small pox, but arrest it in its race of mischief, and beat it back, in the open view of the unbelievers. I am confident of its success, and think the enterprize worthy an Hercules in the art.

I look upon your benevolent labours in this business as adding to your well earned reputation in the noble strife of exterminating small pox. I have always said that *Sylvanus Fancher* was the ablest co-adjutor I ever had, from my first introduction of the Kine Pock Inoculation in 1799, to its establishment in the minds of the people.

Your Friend,

BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE.

Dr Sylvanus Fancher, New Haven.

I should not have made this communication at present, but for the judicious remarks in your Intelligencer of the 2d of May; nor have extended it to another number, but for some additional ones, in your last, on what has been called "VARIOLID." I thought until lately, that I had discussed this irregularity with

Plainfield, March, 1st, 1808.

"New Haven, February 19th, 1826.

"Having been an eye-witness to an experiment made on four persons, to accel-

sufficient clearness in my Treatise "on the progress of the New Inoculation in America," published at the University Press in November, 1802.

B. WATERHOUSE.

Cambridge, June 5th, 1826.

ON THE NATURE AND MEDICAL USE OF
THRIDACE.

M. Francois has just favoured the public with the results of his inquiries and experiments as to the nature and medical use of thridace, or the juice of the garden lettuce (*lactuca hortensis.*)

It seems to be ascertained that thridace contains no narcotic or intoxicating principle; but that, by soothing pain, and diminishing the rapidity of the circulation by its natural warmth, it disposes the patient to sleep. Its mode of acting on the system is different from that of opium, for opium stimulates, increases the circulation, excites, intoxicates, and, in certain doses, poisons. Those who use thridace for the first time, or after a considerable interval, experience in the stomach, as soon as they take it, an unusual sensation, somewhat analogous to cold, but not unpleasant. The stomach very soon accustoms itself to its action, so that, in order to obtain a sensible effect from it for several successive days, it is necessary to double the dose quickly, intermitting its use for a day or two, and then returning to the first dose, which is generally two grains for an adult.

This substance possesses to a marked degree, a property absolutely opposite to that of opium, that of moderating the excessive activity of the circulation. This property renders it an extremely useful substitute, in many cases, for the digitalis purpurata, the action of which on the stomach is never without its inconveniences, and cannot be supported long, a circumstance which never need be apprehended in the exhibition of thridace.

M. Francois has given thridace in acute or chronic rheumatism, in quotidian ague, gastro-enteritis, chronic inflammation of the peritoneum and of the bladder, phthisis pulmonalis hypertrophy of the heart, and in a great number of cases in which the patients were troubled with insomnia and pains in the limbs. He has given many cases of its successful employment in debility occasioned by nocturnal emissions, which have been cured by the use of thridace, continued from six weeks to two months; the quantity was two, four, to six grains in the twenty-four hours, in two, three, or four doses. This explains the reason why the Greeks gave the name of *eunuchéion* to the lettuce, in consequence of its efficacy in tranquillizing the excitement of the senses. It is also extremely useful in calming the irritation of the urinary canal, occasioned by the action of cantharides. It acts rapidly after it is taken; its action is directed almost exclusively to the nervous system, and under its influence no irregularity or hardness is observed in the pulse.

M. Vaudry has given some cases in which it has been employed externally:—A patient, who was suffering under acute inflammation of the elbow-joint, attended with severe swelling of the fore-arm, had not slept for several nights. Fomentations, composed of thridace and 12 ounces of elder water, gave no relief, but by rubbing the parts with four grains of thridace, dissolved in a little saliva, three times a day, the pain was entirely removed in five days, and the patient slept well.

In another case of acute inflammation of the conjunctiva, a collyrium was prescribed, composed of six grs. of thridace in four ounces of rose-water. The next day the pain was diminished, but the red vessels still continued in the conjunctiva. The thridace was increased to eight grains, and continued for four days:

under this treatment the inflammation was removed.

M. Francois is entitled to much praise for having directed the attention of physicians to an indigenous remedy, of which the preparation is extremely simple and the efficacy indubitable.—*Gazette de Santé*, November 5.

CHLORATE OF SODA.

In a late London publication is contained a paper by George Darling, M. D. on the use of chlorate of soda.—Externally, the employment of this substance may in many cases be of service, but there is reason to believe that the writer of the article overvalues the qualities of his medicine. The chlorate is always used in solution, and an excess of acid should be avoided when intended for internal exhibition. For external purposes, a slight excess of the chlorine seems to be useful. The dose is from one drachm to two ounces of the saturated solution three times a day. For a lotion or gargle, it is given in equal parts of the solution and water, and further dilution may be made if necessary. The writer says:

The chlorate of soda was introduced to my notice as a medicine 18 years ago, by the late Dr Helenus Scott, when I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with him in India. He had employed it in secondary syphilis, and in pseudo-syphilitic affections, but in these only. By his advice, I gave it at the time in some cases of that description, and with so much success, that I resolved to make a full trial of its powers whenever a favourable opportunity occurred. Circumstances which it is unnecessary to mention, deprived me of the opportunity desired till some years afterwards, when I entered on practice in London. I began then to administer it internally, in chronic diseases of the skin, and in those bilious, or rather dyspeptic disorders, for which pure chlorine

was recommended by Dr Scott. I soon found that it was a valuable medicine in these complaints,—equal, if not superior to chlorine in its effects, besides having the advantage of being a much more agreeable, as well as a more manageable preparation.

Having satisfied myself of the efficacy of the chlorine as an internal remedy, I was led to try it as an external application; and my principal object in making this communication, is to draw the attention of the profession to its merits, when used in this manner.

To attempt to particularize all the varieties of cutaneous disease in which I have prescribed it with advantage, would be inconsistent with the limits of this sketch. For the purpose in view it will suffice to state, that it is well adapted to all those chronic affections of the skin for which stimulating lotions are usually recommended; and in particular, that in cases of sloughing in the erythema, from local irritation, to which children are particularly liable, in impetiginous, and in pruriginous affections, it has proved successful in many instances, after the failure of all the remedies in common use.

In affections of the mucous surfaces, which admit of its application, it is still more efficacious than in complaints of the skin. Of its good effects in those of the mouth, of the eyes, and of the vagina, I am enabled to speak from ample experience. Hitherto I have not directed it for the urethra, although disposed to think that it will be found of no small service in the chronic inflammatory disorders to which that organ is especially subject.

It is strikingly beneficial in erythematous inflammation, and in ulcerations of the throat. As a gargle, I have employed it in numerous examples of this description during the last ten years; and I am justified in

saying, that it has been rarely used without advantage, and, that when the state of the constitution permitted a cure by local applications, it has never failed to give speedy and complete relief.

Recently I have ascertained, that it is no less effectual in controlling the inflammation of the mouth produced by mercury. Indeed, I know of no remedy at all comparable to it in this very troublesome affection. Applied diligently at the commencement, it seldom fails to arrest the progress of the salivation; and in the worst cases, when the flow of saliva has been excessive, the ulceration extensive, and the pain so severe as to prevent sleep, it has given comparative ease in a few hours, checked the inflammatory action, and enabled the patient to take rest. With this preparation at hand, salivation is no longer an object of dread to me; and, consequently, I can prescribe mercury with much less apprehension than formerly, whenever the free use of that remedy is desirable.

In idiopathic ptyalism, I have also employed the chlorate with much benefit; and I may add, that I have seen two or three cases of this complaint annually for several years past, although its existence is still a matter of doubt with some of our ablest writers.

The inflammatory and irritative affections of the vagina yield to this remedy sooner than to any other with which I am acquainted. As an example, I may give the particulars of a case of prurigo pudendi muliebris, for which I was consulted three years ago, and in which it afforded almost instantaneous relief, after every means that could be thought of had been resorted to in vain. The patient was a married lady, 36 years of age, and the mother of four or five children. In the seventh month of pregnancy she was suddenly, and without any assignable cause, attack-

ed by this complaint in a degree surpassing any thing I had witnessed. Purgings, topical bleeding, the acetate of lead, nitric acid, calomel, and lime water, oxymuriate of mercury and lime water, besides other forms of lotion, and various unguents, had been tried in succession, without the smallest benefit. The situation of the patient was truly distressing. For a week she had not been able to close her eyes; and, in fact, she did not enjoy a moment's ease. In this state of things the chlorate was applied; and in two hours the relief was so effectual, that she fell into a refreshing sleep. The disorder returned at intervals for some days; but it was invariably subdued by the steady application of the lotion for the space of ten or fifteen minutes—proving that the relief obtained was attributable to the remedy, and not to a spontaneous cessation of the disease. In less than a week the cure was perfect.

PATIENTS FOR SALE!—WHO BUYS?

It has always appeared to us somewhat below the dignity of any profession, for one member to sell his business to another. Yet we often see advertised in the newspapers "a good stand for a physician may be procured at a reasonable rate," &c. &c. This is no more nor less than offering one's patients to the first or highest bidder. It is not only a display of illiberality and cupidity on the part of the physician, but an impeachment of the judgment and good sense of his patrons. It implies—nay, more than implies, it asserts, that he has the unlimited control over their choice, and that he does not consider them capable of distinguishing a regular practitioner from a quack, a man of address and education, from an ignoramus and a clown.

When a physician has earned a good reputation and a good living, he ought not to take from the former, for the purpose of increasing the latter. If he wish-

es to relinquish his practice, he should do it in a liberal and honorable manner; and if he were to search for some able and well educated young man, and recommend him to the esteem and patronage of his friends, it would be conferring an obligation equally on both. But to introduce the physician in his place, who will pay him the greatest sum of money for the stand, or the greatest annual per centage on his practice for a certain period, displays a species of avarice in himself, extortion from his protégée, and insult to his patient, which merits our unqualified displeasure.

ST. VITUS' DANCE.

Several cases of this disease have recently occurred in Europe, in which Galvanism has been perfectly successful after other powerful remedies had failed. The greatest medical virtues of galvanism are yet to be discovered.

INDIGENOUS POISONS.

The season is advancing when the vegetable poisons that border our brooks, and grow so profusely by our way sides, present their attractions to the roving children of the country. In spite of the most watchful care of parents and of nursery maids, great children and little ones are often led into dangerous and fatal temptation, by the berries of the night-shade, or the purple flowers of the stramonium. Although in this case, as in every other, preventive measures are of the utmost importance, the best means of removing the unpleasant symptoms when the poison has been taken, should be familiar to every physician. He cannot search out a remedy at leisure; the life of the patient depends on his ready knowledge of the best means of affording relief. We cannot therefore too strongly enforce the importance of an accurate investigation of the precise operation of poisons on the system, and the most speedy remedies.

This subject has of late years received much attention in France, and a great deal of new light been thrown on the

treatment of such cases. Every physician who is aware of this circumstance will feel the necessity of commanding this information, and by some source or other we hope it will be widely diffused over our country.

ERRATUM.—Page 20, col. 1, l. 15 from bottom, for *cause* read *casual*.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON. ENDING JUNE 3D.

Abscess, 1—Canker in the bowels, 1—Consumption, 2—Colic, 1—Cholera Morbus, 1—Dysentery, 1—Dropsy, 2—Drowned, 2—Fits, 2—Gravel, 1—Hooping Cough, 1—Jaundice, 1—Inflammation in the brain, 1—Paralytic, 1—Unknown, 2—Males, 14—Females, 6.

ENDING JUNE 10th.

Accidental, 1—Burn, 1—Complaint of the heart, 1—Consumption, 3—Croup, 1—Dropsy, 1—Dropsy in the head, 4—Dropsy in the chest, 1—Inflammation in the bowels, 1—Lung Fever, 1—Rheumatic, 1—Scarlet Fever, 1—Suicide, 1—Unknown, 1—Stillborn, 1. Males, 12—Females, 7.

Medicines, Surgical Instruments, &c.

BARTLETT & BREWER, at the sign of the *Good Samaritan*, No. 92, Washington-Street (late 13, Cornhill), have received by the London and Havre packets, and other late arrivals, a fresh supply of *Drugs, Medicines, Surgical Instruments, and Chemicals*: Among them are Blue Pill, Calomel, Tartar Emetic and Calcined Magnesia, from Apoth. Hall, London: Iodine; Elaterium; Croton Oil; Hydriodate of Potash; Sulph. Quinine; Cheltenham Salts; Colchicum Root and Seeds; Henry's Magnesia.

Amputating, Trepanning, Couching, Midwifery and Dental Instruments; Pocket Cases and separate Instruments; Frenum and Hare-lip Scissors; Extracting and Forcing Probangs; Anatomical Syringes; Laundy's Splints; Carved, Lancet and Triangular Pointed Trocars; Silver Syringes and Stilets for Fist. Lachrymalis.

Gum Elastic Catheters, Bougies, Pessaries, Suppositories, Urinals, Clyster Pipes, Tubes for Extracting Poison from the Stomach, Resuscitating Tubes, Nipple Shields, Caustic Plasters, and Syringes.

Also, kept constantly on hand, a large supply of Stone's much approved Patent Spring Pad Trusses, with an extensive assortment of articles in their line, which they will sell on the most reasonable terms.

Jenckes' Patent Alleviator.

THE subscriber having made an arrangement for introducing this invaluable Instrument in the city of Boston, any family who may have one of their numbers so sick as to require the exertions of their friends to lift them for any purpose, can be accommodated with the use of the Alleviator by calling on Mr WILLIAM HANCOCK, No. 39, Market-street, or on Mr EDMUND PARSONS, No. 10, Portland-street, who has undertaken to put them up when and where they may be wanted, and attend to the use of them. Any person wishing for further information, will please to apply as above.

JOHN C. JENCKES.

Mr JENCKES has many Certificates, from the Medical Society, and from many eminent surgeons in the U. S. recommending them to the public, among which are the following, viz:—

*Certificate from John C. Warren, M. D.
of Boston, Principal of the Massachusetts Hospital.*

Mr J. C. Jenckes having requested my opinion of his Machine for raising the sick and wounded from bed, I have examined it, and found it well calculated for the purpose. In order to test its practical utility, I desired him to convey it to the Massachusetts General Hospital, and have repeatedly employed it there; particularly in a case of fractured thigh, accompanied with delirium, and found it highly useful. Considering it therefore a valuable invention, I very heartily recommend it for the use of hospitals, and for all private patients who may be in need of it.

JOHN C. WARREN, *Principal Mass. Hospital.*

Boston, June 16, 1823.

Lynn, 25th Feb. 1825.

DR CHOATE,—This comes to you by the hands of MR JENCKES, the inventor of an apparatus for raising from the bed, persons whose infirmities or injuries from fractures or other causes have usually rendered a long confinement necessary.

MR JENCKES is furnished with numerous certificates from eminent surgeons, respecting the advantages of his machine, and in justice to his mechanical ingenuity and philanthropic character, I subjoin an account of an important case, in which I feel assured, the patient's life has been preserved by the assistance of this apparatus.

R. T., a respectable lady, aged 55, unusually corpulent, by a fall on the ice

fractured the right thigh bone at the neck. The usual reduction and dressings were attended to, and during the first two weeks the patient appeared to do well. It was then discovered that by the continued pressure on the back and hips, inflammation had taken place and gangrene and mortification were rapidly succeeding. The state of the fractured limb, the size of the patient, and the nervous excitement under which she laboured, precluded or rendered extremely inconvenient, the necessary dressing to those diseased parts. The patient was rapidly sinking and in the opinion of an eminent surgeon who was called in consultation, there was but a faint prospect of her recovery.—At this critical period Mr JENCKES visited Lynn, bringing with him one of his machines, which was immediately employed, and to the facilities afforded by this in the frequent dressings now become necessary, I am ready to attribute the rapid recovery of the patient from her dangerous situation.

That the advantages of this invention may be widely extended, and suffering humanity be relieved from many of its burdens is the ardent desire of

Your obedient servant,
JOHN LUMMUS, M. D.

Philadelphia, Nov. 8, 1825.

I have within the last few weeks in two cases of compound fractures, near the ankle joint, used with the most decided benefit the "Alleviator" of Mr Jenckes. Without hesitation I pronounce it a very valuable contrivance.

WM. GIBSON, M. D., *Professor of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania.*

Certificate from the Physicians and Surgeons of the New York Hospital.

The undersigned Physicians and Surgeons of the New York Hospital, having examined and witnessed the application of Mr John C. Jenckes' new invention of a Machine for raising the sick from their beds, unite in recommending the same as peculiarly useful for the purposes for which it is intended.

DAVID HOSACK, M. D.

JOHN NELSON, M. D.

JOHN C. CHESSMAN, M. D.

JOHN WATTS, JR., M. D.

VALENTINE MOTT, M. D.

WRIGHT POST, M. D.

THOMAS COCK, M. D.

ALEX. H. STEVENS, M. D.

New-York, July 15, 1823,

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VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1826.

NO. 5.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

"VARIOLOID."—NO. 3.

There is a growing disposition,—I liked to have said, a *morbid* one—to multiply the *names* of *diseases*. And it is to be lamented that we are led astray in Physic by *names*, almost as often as in Religion. By this multiplication of terms, good sense has hardly fair play;—for it fills the head of the student with a jumble of words, and burdens his memory to no useful purpose. Thus VARIOLOID has been brought before the public as a *new distemper*, and introduced to them as a *stranger*; whereas I had described this anomaly *four and twenty years ago*, yet practitioners in general, would not attend to it; and some were inclined to place it under the head of magnified trifles:—but now they are willing to regard it, because dignified with a name.

At that early period of the discovery, I found it needful to write a chapter entitled—"Of SPURIOUS Small Pox;" and another—"Of SPURIOUS Kine Pock." (See from p. 101 to 116 of the treatise.) In the first, it was said—that *spurious* small pox had scarcely, if ever, been mentioned in America, before the publications on the Kine Pock had appeared, notwithstanding its woful consequences had been felt in many families in every part of the Union,—that we found it difficult to convey a correct idea of *spurious* matter, and its necessary effect, *spurious* cases:—that the best British writers have used the same term to express failures in communicating the true disease, which had originated from *different causes*. In the same chapter, several cases are related in the practice of some of the first surgeons in En-

gland, whose patients had, what some would call, "the small pox twice."

I said in 1802, that *spurious* small pox was indeed so common an occurrence among inoculated patients, that we might, with equal propriety, put the same query in America, that Dr Jenner did in England—"Where is the village, that hath not yielded its victim to the small pox *after inoculation*, for that disease was supposed to have been properly performed?"

In the last general inoculation with small pox, in this quarter, including Boston, which was in 1792, a considerable proportion of all the first cases were *spurious*, owing to the difficulty of obtaining a sufficiency of good matter. It appears that Small Pox inoculators here and in England, had not, previous to the practice of vaccination, any correct ideas of the change which variolous matter may undergo in the putrefactive process; or that matter, thus changed, would give rise to a train of symptoms, bearing so strong a resemblance to the *true* small pox, as to be often mistaken for it; neither did they appear to know that a severe disease, resembling small pox, would arise from variolous matter *taken at too late a period of its pustule*. This may account for what has been sometimes said, *that such a person has had the small pox TWICE*.

There is not only SPURIOUS Small Pox and SPURIOUS Kine Pock, but *spurious measles*; that is, a morbilious affection, so slight as not to secure the person from a second attack of it, not fever enough to consume, if you please, the original pabulum.

But it is SPURIOUS KINE POCK of which we have most occasion to

speak. I said in 1802, that a correct definition, accurately discriminating the *spurious* pustule from the true, was not to be found in any book I had ever examined. It is to be learnt by the eye, and we know that the eye, as well as the ear, admits of cultivation: a finished connoisseur in painting can discriminate the copy of a portrait from the original, by the same hand. But who can teach that skill by words?

We know from experience that vaccine matter taken at an advanced period of a forward pustule, will occasion nearly the same local appearances, and excite a severe but *fallacious* disorder; as not possessing the specific prophylactic power. According to my own observation, these fallacious cases appear under two forms. The first arises from the application of matter *impoverished* as it respects the *specific virus*, probably weakened by being diluted with lymph, serum, or the aqueous portion of the blood; or else deteriorated by long keeping, or by excessive hot weather, or by being frozen and then thawed, for

"Here frost performs th' effect of fire."*

Matter thus impoverished, appears to affect the skin merely; and seems to struggle on to raise *the specific* inflammation, and operate the propagation of the *specific virus*, but fails for want of sufficient strength to carry it on. Most commonly its stimulus is not great enough to excite the lymphatics to absorb it; hence there is no efflorescence, and, of course, no constitutional affection whatever. There is only a soft scab formed, creeping gradually round the punctured part, having a cranberry-coloured base, which, fading away, leaves behind a crustaceous, amber-coloured scab, whence a transparent fluid sometimes issues, but most commonly a *purulent* one.

The second form of the *spurious* disease, owes its origin to matter ta-

ken from an originally genuine kine pox pustule, but at so late a period, that the specific virus is absorbed; hence we may learn the uncertainty of SCABS for the purpose of re-inoculations. Sometimes the scab is thrown off, and the part ulcerates, and pours forth a glairy fluid, which some have mistaken for the true *pellucid* virus. After this, pus is formed, and sometimes the pus is changed to putridity and then it is a sort of acrid poison. The hard scab produced from this is always fallacious. This is a rapid, angry-looking bile, with a deep red efflorescence, producing, now and then, severe symptoms, as severe head ache, rapid pulse, thirst, and every other mark of fever, from a local cause. This sore differs greatly from the slow and reluctant one, before mentioned. Very many such cases occurred amongst us in the autumn of 1800; and from both causes here mentioned. Dr Jenner experienced the like perplexity with myself, at his first setting out in the practice. Dr Woodville, as well as Dr Pearson, insisted that the *vaccine* matter was capable of producing *variolous* pustules; and these London Physicians confused the matter greatly,* and led many into error.

Dr Jenner complained more than once, in his letters to me, that the most arduous task he had to perform, was that of making practitioners sensible of the absolute necessity of attending to the *QUALITY* of the vaccine matter. "The vaccine fluid," says he, "is extremely delicate in its texture, and subject, from a variety of causes, some of them apparently trifling, to *partial*, and to *general* decomposition: to *partial*, when it retains its qualities imperfectly:—to *general*, when these qualities are entirely destroyed." The perfect Kine Pock virus only, can produce the perfect vaccine pustule. The perfect small pox mat-

* Milton.

Jenner

ter only, can produce the perfect variolous distemper, that which shall destroy the *predisposition*, or consume the *pabulum* that gives rise to small pox.

It is a prevalent notion among people, that the *distinct* and the *confluent* small pox is owing to the mild, or the malignant *quality* of the matter used in inoculation. But it is owing rather to the state, condition, or *idiosyncrasy* of the patient himself, depending on a cause hitherto inscrutable, as hidden as that which prevents all other animals from taking small pox, be they ever so much exposed to breathing a variolous atmosphere, or ever so many times inoculated.*

Many years ago, I endeavoured to solve the problem by saying that In a healthy person, inhabiting a clean place, breathing a salubrious air, and living temperately, a train of salutary processes are going forward in his system; digestion is well performed, the chyle is proper; blood made from that chyle is perfect, and the secretions and excretions natural and regular.

Should a simple wound be inflicted, with a clean instrument, on such a person, the inflammation thence arising, would be regular *in all its stages*; the pus formed, would be replete with white globules, and *perfectly sweet*, being as void of smell as the blood: the subsequent granulations, a consequent effect of the same cause, would be florid and firm, and a perfect restoration of the wounded part would soon follow. If such a person should be inoculated with matter from the most confluent case, his pustules shall nevertheless be distinct; the basis of each encircled by a border of crimson; the intermediate spaces will approach the

colour of the damask rose; the matter in each pustule will, in due time, acquire a yellow colour, and "laudable" consistency; and the reason is, —the *vires vitiæ* are here sufficiently strong to throw up a redoubt against the enemy, and repel his advances.

The febrile symptoms accompanying such a state are of the true *synocha* type.

But in a person otherwise situated, and predisposed, other and different symptoms will appear if inoculated with the same matter and from the same subject, and the inoculation performed at the same time. In him the eruptions come on sooner, are more numerous, appear in clusters, like measles, and do not maintain their circular figure, and spheroidal form; but run one into another and become flat; and when the pustules are in any measure distinct, their bases are not bounded as in the former case, by an inflamed margin; while the skin that is free from pustules is pale and flabby. The matter in these vesicles is a whitish, or brownish sanies, and the accompanying fever is *typhoid*, while the concomitant inflammation is of the erysipelatous species, or that sort which shows a disposition to spread, or rather, no disposition to set bounds to itself, as in the *distinct* small pox.

At this period, should the depressing effects of fear unfortunately concur, the edges of the eruptions will soon show that they are too weak to resist the encroaching evil, and will all run into one shocking sore. Now instead of yellow matter, or pus, ichor only is produced. Soon after, purple spots appear, profuse haemorrhages of thin corrupt blood pass off by the several outlets of the body, and the sufferer sinks under his weight of misery.

In such cases the violence of the disease is not occasioned by the greater "*malignity*" of the variolous virus used in the inoculation; but it is owing to some cause which de-

* The celebrated JOHN HUNTER tried this experiment till he was tired, on dogs—cats—cows—horses—asses, and monkeys.

† *Practical observations on Kine Pock,*
119.

presses too far the "VIRES NATURÆ MEDICATRICES;" and so the *potentia nociva* prevail. Hence the *imperfect* inflammation, and *imperfect* suppuration; hence the symptoms of approaching dissolution, indicated by the incapacity of each pustule to confine its own matter which appears *confluent* throughout the skin.

From the preceding narrative it appears, that the anomalous appearances in small pox and kine pox were detailed, and cautionary advice given, as far back as 1802, but neglected. Now indeed the collective symptoms come before the public as a *new* and *strange* distemper, breaking in upon the regularity of the order of Exanthemata, filling the public mind with apprehension and anxiety; while the difficulty is with erring man, and not in unerring Nature, who never creates a new disease without an adequate and steady cause.

I found but one person disposed to devote undivided attention to *the new inoculation*; and to him I gave all the aid in my power; and have ever reflected upon it with satisfaction; because his benevolence was commensurate with his industry and judgment. Among the *vast* number he has vaccinated, and the many whom he has tested with small pox, we hear nothing of VARIOLOID.

Your correspondent, to me unknown, seems duly impressed with a sense of our false security. He speaks of blameable negligence; and adds, that "when so many things may occur to interrupt the progress and annul the effects of vaccination, what can we expect but that nine-tenths of the cases are imperfect?" This is speaking rather stronger than my own experience would justify. Some persons,—I know not whom—applied to Congress, the last session, to establish an officer whose duty it should be to preserve and distribute, under certain regulations, genuine vaccine virus, with proper

directions for conducting this highly important practice; and a Bill was brought in for that purpose, and passed two readings; but left among a heap of neglected business.

To carry this PRESERVATIVE against the greatest plague that ever inflicted mankind, into full effect, it is needful that the matter should emanate from ONE RESPONSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT; and not from twenty-four as has been suggested.

BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE.

Cambridge, June 14th, 1826.

DR DANA'S CHYMISTRY.

This is an epitome of chymical philosophy, or an extended syllabus of the author's lectures on that subject, in the medical department of Dartmouth College. The most prominent trait in the character of the work, is its complete adaptedness to the situation of students attending lectures, and to all who desire a general acquaintance with the philosophy of the science, without the embarrassments of technicalities, idle speculations, and useless minutiae. We are sensible of no good reason why the scanty time that is required of students to be devoted to medical education, should be at all encroached upon by an examination of mere matters of opinion and unsettled points. These, we conceive, should not find place, except by notes or reference, in books of the principles of science;—for if crude speculations which attend the progress of knowledge, are admitted to the dignity of a place among what are received as established principles, inducements must be lessened to mature research. The student has enough to do during the short period of his pupilage, to become properly acquainted with facts, and the immediate objects of medicine. Bordou, one of the greatest physicians which France has produced, while enumerating the various courses of lectures proposed for medical instruction, used to say, "Why do they not institute a course of common sense?" Simultaneous atten-

tion to the variety of objects that are frequently crowded upon the student's mind, especially in lecture terms, excludes the advantage which might be derived from those that are really important, and although the appearance of attending the instruction of a large number of teachers may be very imposing, the advantages must be lessened in proportion to the number of objects presented to the mind at the same time. Beddoes used to complain that so much was crowded into the period assigned for medical study, that the body and mind were kept in perpetual hurry. Seneca taught that "the attention must be confined to a small number of objects, if it be expected that the mind is to receive durable impressions."

Objections like these, which are frequently urged against the use of most systematic works as text books, are, in the one which is the subject of this sketch, entirely avoided—it being the object of the author to give the facts and received doctrines of chymistry, independent of what to the student and general reader is little better than useless lumber. The first part contains an exposition of the general principles of the science, and the chymistry of *inorganic* substances. The second, the chymistry of *organic* substances, or a chymical examination of Nature. The arrangement and divisions of the subjects are happy, the expositions clear, the illustrations perspicuous and entirely satisfactory.

The work is also highly creditable to the author on the score of originality, though professing to be a compilation, and must add something to his acknowledged high reputation as a practical chymist, and public teacher in the oldest and one of the most useful medical schools in New-England. Our limits at present will not admit of any thing like a critical examination of the work, but we take this opportunity of recommending it to students, and all others who desire a view of the present state of the science, in its most intelligible and condensed form.

RESUSCITATION.

Few discoveries of the kind are destined to so great practical utility, as the famous *Stomach Syringe*. This simple instrument, by an easy process, unattended by difficulty or danger, and giving but a shadow of pain, is made to draw from the stomach its contents, and with equal facility to convey substances into that organ, in cases where there exists stricture of the oesophagus, tumours in the fauces, and indeed whenever circumstances require such aid. In instances of poisoning, its utility is evident. The new light which has been thrown on the means of resuscitation, and the causes of the great difficulties which occur in the restoration of drowned persons, opens a new field for the operation and usefulness of this instrument.

When any person is taken out of the water insensible, and apparently lifeless, and means employed for his resuscitation, if they are at all successful, frequent retching and vomiting takes place, and large quantities of cold water are discharged from the stomach. This invariably takes place before recovery is complete. The mechanical and chilling effects of such a body of cold water on the stomach, must present an essential barrier to resuscitation; and it is not to be regarded but with attention and satisfaction, that the immediate discharge of this water by means of the stomach syringe, has been found greatly to facilitate and expedite the restoration of the natural and healthy functions.

No physician ought to be without so efficient an instrument for fulfilling the humane designs of his profession; and we are happy to find that a number of them have been imported for sale by Messrs Bartlett and Brewer, Apothecaries in this city.

NAMES OF DISEASES.

Giving names to diseases has been ridiculed by some of the greatest physicians in the world. These talented and distinguished men have pronounced it a

system of quackery, and when their patients have asked if they had scarlet fever, they have been in the habit of answering, "you may call it scarlet, or black or white, just which you choose," and have I the rheumatism or the gout? is followed by, "both, or either, as you please to call it; you have a pain in the foot, and when you have followed my prescriptions, you will have it no longer," &c. &c.

Now the argument offered by these gentlemen, when they condescend to give reasons, is, that there is such an infinity of forms to disease, and one runs so into another, that it is impossible to draw lines, and we must therefore take the symptoms as we find them, and do our best to restore health. Now this is all true; but the same is true of all branches of science. Even men differ from each other, like diseases. We can trace a resemblance in the heads and intellects of some Europeans and some Africans, and many Africans differ but little in either from some apes and ourang-outangs. Yet because we can see a gradual decline in the form of the head from the Apollo even to the frog, it is no reason why men should not be divided into different races, and each race be distinguished by its appropriate name.

There are many cases in which practitioners give a wrong name to a disease, from a misapprehension of the nature of the complaint, or because, not being able to class the symptoms at all, they save themselves some trouble by giving the name most at hand; and it is such cases, we apprehend, which have induced many high and gifted minds to be disgusted with the plan of giving a name to every set of symptoms we meet with. But does not this savor a little of pettishness? There are cases, again, in which the strange combination of symptoms, real and imaginary, defy the greatest skill at classification, and yet the patient will not be satisfied without *the name* of his disorder; and many a friend will persuade the in-

valid that his doctor does not understand his case, if some name—no matter whether right or wrong, whether they understand it, or have ever heard of it before or not—be not readily given to it. In a profession, therefore, success in which is so dependent on whim and caprice as ours, the evils alluded to must exist, and ought not to bring into the shade the obvious advantages of a correct and practical nosology.

ON THE OCCASIONAL ILL CONSEQUENCES OF VENESECTION.

Secondary Hæmorrhage, occurring at a period more or less remote during the first twenty-four hours after bleeding, is not an unfrequent occurrence. Sometimes the quantity of blood thus lost is inconsiderable, yet it seldom occurs without exciting distrust in the mind of the patient of the skill or care of the operator. This accident may take place from the imperfect adaptation of the bandage and compress, or from their giving way after having been adjusted. I have known it occur by the patient having taken off the bandage within a few hours after being bled, and thus lose a quantity of blood far exceeding what any remedial intention would justify.

A young surgeon, in a maritime town, bled a seaman, and from some cause or other, which was not satisfactorily explained, hæmorrhage from the orifice recurred; this, however, did not prevent the patient from going to sea when his ship was ready; the hæmorrhage returned from time to time, and before the vessel returned to the port from which she sailed, the unfortunate patient had died. No doubt, in the well-meant endeavours of his companions, their attempts to stop the bleeding had been very unskilful, but that circumstance did not prevent the opinion spreading through the town, that the untimely death of the poor fellow was the consequence

of the unskilfulness of the operator. So widely did this impression obtain, that the surgeon ceased to be employed, and was obliged to leave the place where his prospects, previously to the occurrence of this fatal accident, had been unusually promising.

Puncture of a nerve may happen in the hands of the most skilful, as well as in those of the uninformed, for the branches of the cutaneous nerves sometimes pass over the vein, when their usual course is to pass under the vessel, and unlike the artery, which may be felt by its pulsation, and thus any deviation from the regular course be observed, these cutaneous branches of nerves cannot be distinguished. The branches of the internal cutaneous nerve generally pass under the median basilic vein, whilst those of the external cutaneous more frequently pass over the cephalic and median cephalic veins. A gentleman, who was house surgeon in one of the metropolitan hospitals, suffered for several weeks painful and uneasy sensations in his arm from the puncture of a nerve in bleeding. I have heard of tetanus being an occasional consequence of this accident, but no instance of so severe a result has come under my observation, although the possibility of such an occurrence cannot be doubted, knowing what slight injuries sometimes give rise to that formidable disease.

Puncture of the fascia, and its supposed consequence, *inflammation of the fascia*, have been described by authors as sometimes taking place. The puncture I do not question; but that the symptoms usually ascribed to this accident are really produced by inflammation of the fascia, I believe there is sufficient reason to doubt; for whilst it is known that the fascia is much less vascular and sensible than the textures immediately in contact with it, the symptoms usually described would certain-

ly result from inflammation and swelling of the parts underneath the fascia. The tension and distress arising from the swelling beneath the fascia has, sometimes, required the division of the tendinous expansion of the biceps near its insertion into the fascia, and extensive suppuration, burrowing under the fascia, has called for a more free division of both fascia and integuments.

Wound of a lymphatic vessel I have known to happen, although of rare occurrence. In one case a capillary aperture remained for some weeks, from which there was a constant oozing of limpid fluid, capable of being restrained by pressure below the orifice, but not affected by pressure higher up the arm. No other inconvenience was experienced, and the aperture healed spontaneously.

(To be continued.)

ORRIS ROOT; CAUTION AS TO ITS USE.—Orris root is frequently used by females and others, in large quantities, as a scent and it has lately happened, that very serious consequences were produced by this practice. Dr. Armont lately read to the Royal Academy of Medicine of France a case in which two young girls became paralytic and insensible, from having put a considerable quantity of orris root into their hair on going to bed. When they awoke in the morning, they were seized with violent head-ache and giddiness, with pain and heat in the throat, similar to what is produced by cantharides, and the younger of the two was completely paralytic on the right side for more than five hours.

SUBLINGUAL PUSTULES IN RABIES.—M. Dupuytren communicated to the Academy letters from M. Marochetti, of St. Petersburgh, and M. Lefon, resident in Turkey, in which those physicians maintain that the excision and cauterization of the pustules that come under the tongue in rabies, prevent the hydrophobic disease, and they request the Academy to supply them with the means of continuing their researches. M. Dupuytren observed, that as the method of cure proposed was preventive, he should always prefer the excision and cauterization of the wounds to that of the pustules, which were by no means certain in their appearance. M.

Honoré mentioned two cases of rabies in which he could not find these pustules either in the individuals, or in the animals which had bitten them. Messrs Girard and Barthelemy said, they had not been more successful; the latter, in numerous experiments that he has made, during the last three years, on dogs, and the former in numerous cases of rabies which occurred during the late summer in the establishment at Altfort. M. Orfila, on the other hand, cited a case communicated by M. Marcq, in which pustules under the tongue had been seen, and a cure effected by their cauterization. The Academy appointed a permanent Committee to inquire into this subject.

GALVANISM has lately been used, and with great success, in the treatment of paralysis. A case is described in the *Revue Medicale*, for May, 1825, in which the lower extremities were completely paralyzed. *Nux vomica*, *digitalis arrina*, and other remedies were employed in vain. Galvanism was then employed, and after seven applications, the disease was completely removed.

A letter from Huntington, S. C. dated May 21, 1826, says, "It is quite unhealthy in this section of country—Epidemic Influenza has been very prevalent since Christmas, of which a number have died—the disease is still prevailing—the weather extremely dry and warm, and the atmosphere appears to be loaded with impurities."

STRENGTH OF MEN.—The strength of savages has frequently been represented as far superior to that of men in a state of civilization: towards the end of the last century an ingenious instrument, to which he gave the name of dynamometer, was invented by M. Regnier de Semur, for determining with precision both human power and that of machinery. This was employed by Peron in his voyage to New Holland, and this able navigator has shown that the strength of savages is uniformly less than that of civilized men.

NEW EMETIC.—It is said that soap suds, drunk in large quantities, is a speedy and effectual emetic, well suited to cases of poison, and whenever else an immediate rejection of the contents of the stomach is desirable.

ERRATUM.—Page 35, second column, 32d line, for *vaccinia* read *vaccina*.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Accidental, 1—Apoplexy, 1—Consumption, 6—Dropsy in the head, 1—Fits, 2—Infantile, 1—Lung Fever, 1—Unknown, 3—Stillborn, 2. Males, 7—Females, 9.

Materia Medica.

THE following are the general outlines of the *Materia Medica* of the United States, which has been written by **WILLIAM ZOLICKOFFER**, M. D. &c. &c. and which will, without any farther delay, be published in the month of September. The cause of its not having emanated from the press last fall, may be attributed to the intention that the author had in view, of enlarging it, in order, if possible, to render it more useful and acceptable. The work alluded to will contain 240 pages, octavo, instead of 180, as was formerly contemplated. It will, therefore, be perceived, that the matter contained therein has been increased in consequence of the delay.

CHAPTER 1. Treats of the improvements of the *Materia Medica*.—**2.** *Modus Operandi* of Medicines.—**3.** Classification of Medicines.

DIVISION 1—Chapter 4. Treats of Narcotics.—**5.** Antispasmodics.—**6.** Tonics.—**7.** Astringents. The four last chapters are included in the first division of general stimulants.

DIVISION 2—Chapter 8. Treats of Emetics.—**9.** Cathartics.—**10.** Emmenagogues.—**11.** Diuretics.—**12.** Diaphoretics.—**13.** Expectorants.—**14.** Sialagogues.—**15.** Errhines.—**16.** Epispastics.—**17.** Escharotics. The chapters included in the second division are such as treat of local stimulants.

DIVISION 3—Chapter 18. Treats of Refrigerents. The articles that are introduced in this division belong to the chemical remedies,

DIVISION 4—Chapter 19. Treats of Demulcents—**20.** Anthelmintics. These two last belong to the mechanical remedies. The classes of Antacids, Lithontriptics, Diluents, and Emollients, have been omitted, from the circumstance of their not being materials that properly belong to these classes.

The price of the work will be *two dollars*.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, Proprietor, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St. to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid). Price two dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, two dollars and a half will be required; and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 1826.

NO. 6.

ON THE OCCASIONAL ILL CONSEQUENCES OF VENESECTION.

(Concluded from page 47.)

Inflammation of the integuments and subjacent cellular membrane, commonly called festering, is the most frequent of the accidents resulting from bleeding. It may extend from a mere spot surrounding the orifice, sometimes to a considerable distance, and in degree may be slight or severe. There is stiffness of the arm, attended with pain and swelling. Sometimes the lymphatic vessels and glands partake in the inflammation, and hence swellings in the axilla, &c. occasionally supervene. I have not known an instance of this affection of the lymphatics, from bleeding, where the orifice had healed without festering. If the sides of the orifice be accurately placed in contact and be thus retained, without being disturbed, for a sufficient time, the want of union will be extremely rare; but when it is considered how apparently slight the causes are which may prevent union, the frequency of that occurrence cannot excite surprise. If the sides of the orifice be not in contact, they cannot unite by adhesion, or, as it is technically termed, by the first intention; hence the wound scabs or suppurates, and inflammation may accompany to a greater or less extent. Sometimes a small particle of fat protrudes at the orifice, and if this be not removed or replaced, union is prevented; any extraneous matter, such as particles from a dirty sponge, blood coagulated in the orifice, or the compress so placed as to separate the edges, may prevent union; this may also be effected by

the too early use of the arm; a foul or rough lancet may be an occasional cause; it has happened that a lancet armed with vaccine virus has been used through mistake; constitutional causes may, perhaps, prevent union, but when the requisite precautions have been used, I am well convinced the want of union will be of rare occurrence. I have entered thus fully into the causes of festering, as, though mere festering is the least of the occasional ill consequences of bleeding, it is, as it were, the parent of greater evils.

The treatment consists in rest and such means as will subdue the inflammation of the part; if the inflammation be not subdued, it not unfrequently terminates in abscess.

Abscess in some instances has proceeded to a dangerous and alarming extent; I have seen the deeper parts at the bend of the arm laid bare to an extent of several inches, by the loss of substance occasioned by abscess of the cellular membrane, and sloughing of the integuments. In one instance, the patient, who had been bled as an hospital out-patient, was one of those unfortunate beings, an Irish labourer, forming one of the inmates of a crowded apartment, where every thing was unfavourable to health, and so great was the constitutional irritation, that for many days his life was in danger. He recovered; but for several weeks was unable to use the arm.

Erysipelas may arise from bleeding when the orifice does not heal kindly. It bears the same characters as when taking place on other parts of the body, and is generally connected with constitutional de-

rangement, on which must in a great degree depend the mode of treatment; but I have not known it to occur when festering of the orifice has not preceded. You are aware that erysipelas sometimes terminates in mortification and death.

Inflammation of the brain is another of those dangerous consequences of venesection, which has in many instances terminated fatally. This, like the former accidents, has its origin in the irritation and suppuration of the orifice, which proceeds upwards in the course of the vein. Unless the inflammation be subdued by early and judicious treatment, it extends along the course of the vein towards the heart, and dissection has shown the vessel filled with pus as far as its termination in the subclavian vein. Whether the pus thus found be formed within the vein, or has passed into it by the open orifice from whence the inflammation had proceeded, does not appear to have been ascertained; but of the dangerous and fatal results of pus carried into the circulation we cannot doubt; and the experiments of M. Gaspard, related in an early volume of Magendie's Journal of Physiology, afford demonstrative evidence on that interesting subject.

The application of a compress above the punctured part has been recommended, and a total division of the vein has been suggested by Mr. Abernethy, as a mode of treatment which may be proper; but I should rather trust to those means which might subdue the inflammation.

Strangulation of the limb by undue or excessive tightness of the bandage after bleeding, has not, so far as I know, been noticed by authors; a fatal instance occurred in an out-patient of one of the metropolitan hospitals, in the summer of 1822. The patient was so slightly indisposed as to have continued his employment up to the time he was bled; he was bled by one of the pupils, and there

was, perhaps, some difficulty in stopping the blood. The arm was tied up, and directions given not to untie it. In the afternoon he complained of stiffness in the arm, and in the evening that it was painful. The pain increased so as to prevent him from sleeping, and his wife stated "his groans were dreadful." Early in the morning he awoke his wife, stating to her that the pain had been so great that he had not been able to close his eyes. She removed the bandage from his arm, and he became somewhat easier. She observed the arm was swelled. He passed another restless night. His wife was obliged to leave him during the day, and when she returned he said "he had suffered a martyrdom." She observed that the arm was a darkish kind of purple for a hand's breadth above the arm, and red below it and very much swelled. His night was again restless, and next morning (the fourth from the bleeding) the arm was black about a hand's breadth on each side of the wound, and the upper part of the limb was swollen very much. In the course of his illness his head became much affected. The further details were such as mark the progress of mortification. This poor unfortunate patient was bled on Saturday, and expired on the following Thursday, leaving a widow and three children without any means of support.

The treatment, I fear, will not bear scrutiny. From Saturday till Tuesday the time was unfortunately lost, nothing having been done; and the widow, in deplored her loss, expressed her grief that her husband, although unable to leave his bed and notwithstanding her repeated solicitation, had not been visited by any of the principal surgeons of the Hospital where he had been bled, till within an hour of his death.

In viewing this melancholy case it may serve to impress upon our

minds the necessity of attention even to the smallest details, upon which the welfare of a fellow-creature may depend.

It is probable that the difficulty in stopping the blood might arise from the orifice being made larger than necessary; this circumstance, and a laudable anxiety to prevent after-bleeding from the wound, might lead to the undue tightness of the bandage; this, and the caution given not to untie the bandage, allowed the mischief to go on increasing, whilst the patient bore the pain for many hours with great fortitude, till he no longer could support the suffering. Even here all might have been retrieved, had he been fortunate enough to receive judicious surgical aid, but much valuable time was lost, and when competent assistance was obtained, it was too late.

The gradual increase of pain and swelling whilst the bandage was continued, marks the progress towards strangulation, and whether the bandage be used after bleeding, or as part of the dressing of an accidental wound, or of a fractured limb, and whether it be too tight at first, or become so by the gradual swelling of the limb, still the injury may be to that extent to endanger the limb, or even the life of the unfortunate sufferer.

From what has been shown, it is obvious that simple as the operation of bleeding may be considered when perfectly performed, yet dangerous and even fatal consequences have resulted from errors apparently very trivial in the outset. I have endeavoured to trace the causes of these errors that you may avoid them. The principle I have habitually acted upon has been, where the responsibility rested upon myself, to let *instruction, careful and assiduous instruction*, precede practice, by which I have avoided many anxieties which must otherwise have fallen to my lot. Many years enga-

ged in public as well as private practice, my pupils have not had the opportunity, nor, I believe, the inclination to be idle. One of them, who, during the period of more than nine years, has been my pupil and my assistant, and whose habitual attention to his professional duties has won my esteem, has, during that period, had occasion to perform venesection in thousands of instances, and without one single untoward accident; his junior, one of your fellow students, now present, has kept an account of more than eight hundred instances in which he has performed blood-letting, and he assures me that only four of these have festered, to which may be added one in which inflammation of the parts under the fascia required rest of the arm for two or three weeks. No serious accident has occurred. The case of wounded lymphatic occurred in my practice, but whether in my own hands, or those of my pupils, I do not recollect, for I profess to have no superiority in what they have been instructed in, for I have no secrets to withhold.

In expressing my belief that the ill consequences occasionally succeeding venesection may, by proper care, be almost wholly avoided, I speak from no limited experience; but far from thinking there is any merit in having possessed ample opportunities, I am the more convinced it is the imperious duty of every one who enjoys such advantages, to render them subservient to the welfare of others. Since all are liable to err, there is no need, in alluding to errors of practice, to hurt the feelings of individuals, the object being to prevent the recurrence of similar evils; but the surgeon who conceals the errors he may have fallen into, or which he may have observed, is as blameable as the pilot who should conceal his knowledge of rocks and shoals which had caused shipwreck and destruction.

In a science which teaches the godlike art of preserving and restoring the health, he who keeps secret the knowledge of that which he believed might prove beneficial to others, forfeits all claim to esteem, by preferring his own sordid interest to the duties of humanity.

Mr Alcock's Lecture.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

EPILEPSY CURED BY TART. EMET. OINTMENT.

MR EDITOR—Thinking the following case may not be unacceptable to some of your readers, I give it you, in order that should you deem it worthy a place in the Intelligencer, it may be inserted. The subject of it is a negro man, aged about thirty years, who in the early part of the month of December last, was attacked, for the first time, with a paroxysm of *epilepsy*. He was treated by the physician who first saw him, with venesection, brisk cathartics, and epispastics to the back of the neck and inferior extremities, which afforded but a temporary relief, for in spite of his abstemious manner of living, and every other effort to the contrary, the fits returned at short intervals, with unabated violence. I eventually saw him, the first of March. When I entered the sick chamber, I found him, to my surprise, performing on a violin. But there was every appearance of an approaching fit. Although free and copious venesection had just been used, assisted by cathartics, his pulse were preternaturally full, and slow, though soft, and receding considerably on pressure; his eyes and his whole countenance distorted in appearance. I must here mention that several of the family had similar strange appearing features; this circumstance caused me to be more doubtful whether or not I could relieve him, as I feared there was an hereditary predisposition to the disease, though none of them had ever

before been seized with it. As I before observed, his eyes were much distorted in appearance, the pupils were dilated to almost the full extent of the iris, his appetite was excessive; his attendants informed me that he manifested a disposition to eat double the quantity of food that he had been wont to do in health—they assured me that he had always been remarkably temperate in every respect, except eating, and that he ate no more than hearty men usually do who are kept at constant and hard labour as he was. He had been very healthy from an infant until the present time. I think his master informed me he never cost him a dollar for medicine or attendance until this seizure. When asked what was the matter, he would reply, "nothing;" this even at his best moments, which sufficiently exhibited a constantly disordered state of the mind. I tried to impress him with the idea that he was sick, but that what I should do for him would certainly cure him, in order that the means used might have some effect on the mind also.

I had his head shaved, and made an immediate application of the ung. antimonii tartarizati, over the whole surface of it, and as far down the spine as the first dorsal vertebra. In forty-eight hours it had produced an eruption. I continued the use of it daily for sixteen days. He took during the time sulph. magnes. 3j. every other day, made use of no animal food, and as little stimulus of any kind as possible. Of the food which he did take, he made use of but about half allowance. He lived in this abstemious manner, using the sal epsom for one month, at the end of which time he began to use a more nourishing diet, and in a short time returned to his old habits. He has never since the commencement of this plan of treatment had a fit, or been threatened with one. He now eats, drinks, and works, as he formerly

did, and I indulge myself with the hope that he is radically cured.

This case I think evidently shows the superior utility of the tart. emet. oint. in epilepsy. If there should be a return of the disease in this case, you shall be made acquainted with the same.

JOS. AUG. BEALL, M. D.

Piscataway, (Md.) June, 1826.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMÖOPATHIA.

This is a pamphlet which purports to be an abstract of a German pathological work by Hahneman, translated by H. B. Gram. The main scope of the work is to prove that diseases can be radically cured only by such remedies as are capable of producing in healthy subjects symptoms similar to those which characterize the diseases. To establish this point, he argues that all other remedies may be divided into two classes. First, such as produce in a healthy subject a *different* state from that which constitutes the disease to be cured; and, secondly, such as produce a state directly *contrary* to it; and that the first of these, which he terms *allopathical*, cannot possibly be useful; because otherwise any disease could be cured by any remedy, since all remedies except the homoopathical, produce effects more or less unlike those which characterize the diseases to be cured. Whereas, the fact is, that diseases can only be cured by such remedies as are proper to produce the *necessary* alterations in the living powers, and not *per quamlibet causam*.

The second class of remedies or those which produce in a healthy subject effects directly opposite to the phenomena of disease, he considers as only palliative. These, he contends, cannot effect a permanent cure of disease. For though they tend to counteract it by inducing an opposite condition of the living system, yet the system re-acts against the impression, and strives to produce an affection contrary to it. So that by the reaction of the system, the consecutive effect of palliative remedies must be to perpetuate and confirm the disease, rather than to remove it.

By the same principle of the reaction of the living powers against extraneous impulsion, it seems to follow that those remedies which are capable of producing in a healthy subject phenomena similar to the symptoms of disease, must, by exciting an effort in the system to counteract the impression, tend to the radical cure of the disease.—On this subject, the author lays down the following laws.—First, that the *susceptibility of the living organism for natural diseases is incomparably less than its susceptibility for the effects of medicine*. Causes of disease are constantly in operation, yet men continue healthy. Disease is an exception to the general state of man, and a concurrence of various circumstances and conditions is necessary before morbid influences generate disease. But the effects of medicine are comparatively uniform and certain. They may almost be said to operate unconditionally; no peculiar concurrence of circumstances being necessary to secure their operation. The second general law laid down by the author is, that *the organism as a living integer is only capable of receiving one general impression at once*. This is evidently the celebrated doctrine of Hunter on the incompatibility of different coexisting diseased actions.—A third general law, as expressed in the peculiar language of our author, is, that *a stronger dynamical affection of the organism annihilates a weaker similar affection*. From these principles the author infers the curative process to be as follows. Homoopathical remedies excite a similar but stronger affection of the living powers, than that which constitutes the disease to be cured. In so doing they do not *add* to the morbid impression, but they *supersede* it. The morbid affection is annihilated, and the system is left to struggle with the artificial disease. The author, however, has only left us to conjecture how and why the constitution comes out of this last contest victorious. If it be said that it is by the reaction of the living powers, the answer is very obvious that, as this reaction was incapable

of destroying a weaker morbid affection (that of the disease), it is difficult to conceive how it can overcome the more powerful artificial one, produced by the remedy.

A great defect in this tract is the absence of all illustration. It cannot be necessary to point out the fallacy of all abstract reasoning in such a science as medicine. Whether this defect be owing to the difficulty of procuring satisfactory illustration of the doctrine of the pamphlet from practical medicine, we do not pretend to judge. There seems at least to be no difficulty in adducing facts in abundance, which have an opposite bearing. We have not time to go into the discussion at length; but would only instance the extensive and most important class of evacuating remedies; and would ask whether it is by substituting a stronger but similar impression upon the living powers in place of the weaker morbid one, that these remedies cure diseases of excitement. Does the abstraction of 30 or 40 ounces of blood cure a pleurisy, by exciting a similar but more powerful inflammatory action in the pleura? Or is the same remedy capable of exciting pleurisy in a healthy subject? Do squills and digitalis cure hydrothorax, by inducing a more violent hydropic action in the pleura, in consequence of which the morbid effusion is superseded and cured by a greater artificial one? Or will the exhibition of these remedies produce hydrothorax in a healthy subject? Questions of this kind in abundance might be stated; and not to confine ourselves to evacuant remedies, is it by virtue of any power of causing fever and ague in a *healthy* person, that bark cures the disease in a sick one? Does arsenic cure periodical diseases from the power of exciting them, or any thing similar to them, in *healthy* subjects? These questions we conceive are fatal to the doctrine, which is attempted to be supported in this tract; still we should be glad to see what can be adduced in its defence. The pamphlet is written in broken English, and is evidently the work of a foreigner.

DAVID AND GOLIATH.

Simplicity is the great excellence of a medicine. If the same benefit can be derived from a simple remedy as from a powerful dose, it is far more desirable, and conscience as well as good judgment should induce us to give it the preference. Because in one case the patient's complaint may be removed without harming his constitution, and in the other there is great danger of injuring the general stamina, though the temporary disease is removed. But this practice is bad for the Doctor. People will not think very highly of a Physician who gives little medicine, and that of the simplest kind. They say he is too simple in his practice. They like a man who will give them a powerful dose, which will either kill or cure. Even if such doses cure for the time, they invariably kill in the end. They impair the constitution, render it less able to resist future attacks, and thus shorten the life of the patient, though they lengthen that of his doctor, by affording him that comfortable reputation which tends more than any thing to increase as well as enliven our years.

Another advantage;—a physician often acquires a name by curing diseases his own remedies have induced. Debility is the parent of a thousand disorders. Let this be produced by a powerful dose of medicine, and the offspring are as sure to follow as if it were the effect of famine or fatigue.

We cannot express the full share of our displeasure when we see a sick chamber loaded with phials and pill boxes. It is a remnant of barbarism thus to drench the primæ viæ with drugs, and no good and intelligent physician can, in this day of light in medicine as well as the other sciences, look on these things but with the most heart-felt abhorrence. We have simple remedies which effect with a mild hand all that was formerly considered the especial province of powerful compounds, and every day brings intelligence of some more agreeable, but equally efficacious substitute for those antiquated doses.

By diet and regimen, for example, more may be done for a dyspeptic than by calomel, bark, or brandy; and if we can find, by actual experience, any article of diet, however simple and *apparently* inert, which will remove the troublesome affections which combined are denominated *dyspepsia*, it is as much our duty to prescribe that article, as if this salutary relief had been procured from the most formidable of the *materiae medicæ*.

These remarks have been immediately occasioned by finding in an European Journal some very singular cases of the efficacy of fat boiled bacon in indigestion, accompanied by constipation. A gentleman who had long suffered from these troubles, and had gone without success through the usual courses of physic, was led by some accidental circumstance to relinquish the use of butter, and substitute fat boiled bacon for it. A slice of this he put between his slices of bread, morning and evening, and soon found his symptoms of dyspepsia began to disappear, his bowels became regular, and his health was restored. Naturally enough, he recommended this to his complaining friend, and it was followed by the same result. Afterwards it was recommended by his physician to a number of his dyspeptic patients, and he had the satisfaction to see them mend under its use, and finally all symptoms of disease vanished. Thus did the fat of bacon, the salutary effects of which we cannot trace to any cause beyond the portion of nitre and culinary salt it contains, do more than the blue pill system of Abernethy, or the stomach and liver speculations of Dr Wilson Philip. Nay, more—it not only removed a disease those systems could not conquer, but removed also the *consequences* of their previous trial.

The most important events are usually brought about by slight causes. A single word or look often causes a man a life of misery or of enjoyment. A trifling manœuvre of a General raises him to power, and his country to glory, whereas without

it, both would have been ruined together. The coachman may turn a corner with a gradual sweep, and proceed safely on his rout, or he may give his horses a sudden twist, and get round his corner quicker and with more apparent skill, but his coach is wrenched, and although he goes on for miles, perhaps, without perceiving his injury, the next turn brings his carriage to the ground; and he averts the blame from himself by having proved his skill in the former instance! Which is the wisest of the two? which entitled most to our confidence? Yet which acquires the greatest reputation in his business? As the most salutary and powerful influences are produced on our moral sentiments, by the still small voice, so is our corporeal structure more powerfully and more permanently, as well as more safely affected, by a persevering use of simple remedies.

At a meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, holden June 7th, 1826, the following gentlemen were elected officers of the Society, viz:—James Jackson, M. D. President—Abraham Haskell, M. D. Vice-President—John Dixwell, M. D. Corresponding Sec'y—George Hayward, M. D. Recording Sec'y—Jacob Bigelow, M. D. Treasurer—Enoch Hale, Jr, M. D. Librarian.

At the annual meeting of the New-Hampshire Med. Soc. holden at Concord, June 6, 1826, Dr R. D. Mussey was elected President—Dr A. Crosby, Vice-President—Dr Peter Bartlett, Secretary—Dr Josiah Crosby, Treasurer. Drs Josiah Crosby and Peter Smith were appointed delegates to attend the medical examinations at Dartmouth College.

The society resolved, that every candidate, before he can enter upon the study of medicine, shall produce satisfactory evidence that his education is sufficient to enter the freshman class in Dartmouth College, that he shall sustain a good moral character, and that he shall read medicine four full years, attend two full courses of medical lectures, or if he has a college education, he shall read medicine three years; this law to go into effect after 1829.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Bilious Fever, 1—Consumption, 3—Croup, 1—Childbed, 1—Fever, 1—Old Age, 1—Teething, 1—Scald, 1—Unknown, 4—Stillborn, 2.

Jenckes' Patent Alleviator.

THE subscriber having made an arrangement for introducing this invaluable Instrument in the city of Boston, any family who may have one of their number so sick as to require the exertions of their friends to lift them for any purpose, can be accommodated with the use of the Alleviator by calling on Mr WILLIAM HANCOCK, No. 39, Market-street, or on Mr EDMUND PARSONS, No. 10, Portland-street, who has undertaken to put them up when and where they may be wanted, and attend to the use of them. Any person wishing for further information, will please to apply as above.

JOHN C. JENCKES.

Mr JENCKES has many Certificates, from the Medical Society, and from many eminent surgeons in the U. S. recommending them to the public, among which are the following, viz:—

Certificate from John C. Warren, M. D. of Boston, Principal of the Massachusetts Hospital.

Mr J. C. Jenckes having requested my opinion of his Machine for raising the sick and wounded from bed, I have examined it, and found it well calculated for the purpose. In order to test its practical utility, I desired him to convey it to the Massachusetts General Hospital, and have repeatedly employed it there; particularly in a case of fractured thigh, accompanied with delirium, and found it highly useful. Considering it therefore a valuable invention, I very heartily recommend it for the use of hospitals, and for all private patients who may be in need of it.

JOHN C. WARREN, Principal Mass. Hospital.

Boston, June 16, 1823.

Lynn, 25th Feb. 1825.

DR CHOATE,—This comes to you by the hands of MR JENCKES, the inventor of an apparatus for raising from the bed, persons whose infirmities or injuries from fractures or other causes have usually rendered a long confinement necessary.

MR JENCKES is furnished with numerous certificates from eminent surgeons, respecting the advantages of his machine, and in justice to his mechanical ingenuity and philanthropic character, I subjoin an account of an important case, in which I feel assured, the patient's life has been preserved by the assistance of this apparatus.

R. T., a respectable lady, aged 55, unusually corpulent, by a fall on the ice

fractured the right thigh bone at the neck. The usual reduction and dressings were attended to, and during the first two weeks the patient appeared to do well. It was then discovered that by the continued pressure on the back and hips, inflammation had taken place and gangrene and mortification were rapidly succeeding. The state of the fractured limb, the size of the patient, and the nervous excitement under which she laboured, precluded or rendered extremely inconvenient, the necessary dressing to those diseased parts. The patient was rapidly sinking and in the opinion of an eminent surgeon who was called in consultation, there was but a faint prospect of her recovery.—At this critical period Mr JENCKES visited Lynn, bringing with him one of his machines, which was immediately employed, and to the facilities afforded by this in the frequent dressings now become necessary, I am ready to attribute the rapid recovery of the patient from her dangerous situation.

That the advantages of this invention may be widely extended, and suffering humanity be relieved from many of its burdens is the ardent desire of

Your obedient servant,
JOHN LUMMUS, M. D.

Philadelphia, Nov. 8, 1825.

I have within the last few weeks in two cases of compound fractures, near the ankle joint, used with the most decided benefit the "Alleviator" of Mr Jenckes. Without hesitation I pronounce it a very valuable contrivance.

WM. GIBSON, M. D., Professor of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania.

Certificate from the Physicians and Surgeons of the New York Hospital.

The undersigned Physicians and Surgeons of the New York Hospital, having examined and witnessed the application of Mr John C. Jenckes' new invention of a Machine for raising the sick from their beds, unite in recommending the same as peculiarly useful for the purposes for which it is intended.

DAVID HOSACK, M. D.

JOHN NELSON, M. D.

JOHN C. CHESSMAN, M. D.

JOHN WATTS, JR., M. D.

VALENTINE MOTTE, M. D.

WRIGHT POST, M. D.

THOMAS COCK, M. D.

ALEX. H. STEVENS, M. D.

New-York, July 15, 1823.

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BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1826.

NO. 7.

BLEEDING FROM THE EXTERNAL JUGULAR VEIN.

The occasions for this operation are, when it is necessary to abstract a large quantity of blood more speedily than it can be drawn from a vein in the arm; or, when it is desirable, in addition to the effect of a general bloodletting, to diminish more immediately the fulness of the vessels of the head; sometimes, also, it is called for in the diseases of children, when general bloodletting is required, and yet the veins of the arm may be so small or so deeply imbedded in fat, as to render bleeding from the arm difficult or impracticable.

The surgical anatomy of the neck, particularly of the superficial and lateral parts, should be carefully studied before this operation is performed by the student on the living body; for though the operation is extremely simple in skilful hands, yet fatal accidents have been known to result from the performance of it. The point usually suggested for opening the jugular vein, is where that vessel crosses over the sterno mastoid muscle, and is covered only by the integuments, and the platysma myoides. This thin muscle, which must be perforated before the vein can be reached, affords a somewhat greater resistance than is felt in bleeding at the bend of the arm. The same precautions of placing the thumb so as to keep the vein steady, and using the fingers not employed in holding the lancet as a rest to afford steadiness to the hand, are as essential as in bleeding from the arm. The operation is performed by compressing the external jugular vein of each side at its lower part, and this

may be done by the fingers and thumb of the operator's left hand as readily as by a bandage. The point of the lancet is entered obliquely to the direction of the vein, and carried through the integuments and platysma myoides till it opens the vein, but not deep enough to transfix it, when the point of the lancet is raised so as to make the aperture through the integuments come directly over that of the vein. Care is taken so to arrange the position, that it should not be changed during the performance of the operation, for a slight motion of the neck is apt to change the relation of the parts, so as to render the opening valvular, and thus prevent a sufficient quantity of blood being obtained.

I should particularly suggest an attentive watching of the countenance and pulse of the patient during the abstraction of blood from this large vein, as the effect produced is comparatively more sudden than in ordinary bleeding, and in children this becomes imperatively necessary. I should further recommend the abstraction to be suspended, if not before, at least as soon as the countenance and pulse indicate the approach of *syncope*, by which I believe every remedial indication may be fulfilled without danger; whilst, in carrying the depletion so far as to produce perfect *deliquium*, a state of danger is induced, from which no one can with certainty say the patient is sure to recover. A sufficient quantity having been abstracted, and the pressure below removed, the orifice must be cleaned, and neatly and accurately closed, and its sides be retained in contact, either by a strip

or strips of plaster, or by compress and bandage. In this, as in other parts of surgery, there are lesser precautions, which are not unworthy of our attention. In performing this operation upon children, it may be well to ascertain that the steadiness of the nurse or assistant can be depended upon. That intensity of parental feeling, which every one must honour, is sometimes too powerful to be under the control of sound judgment, and therefore renders mothers doubtful assistants on such occasions. I have been informed of a case in which, during the performance of this operation, the child, supported on its mother's knee, fainted. The pallid death-like countenance of her infant might well alarm a mother, who had never seen a person faint before; in her alarm she raised the child upright, grasping and pressing it to her bosom, and apparently insensible to the entreaties made to place the child in a horizontal position instantly; the effect of the upright position was equivalent to a larger loss of blood, convulsions supervened, and the unfortunate sufferer expired.

Secondary hæmorrhage, in proportion to the largeness of the vessel, is more to be feared than from the arm. Several years ago, an unfortunate instance of secondary hæmorrhage from the external jugular, after bleeding, came under my cognizance, which forcibly illustrated the necessity which I have previously dwelt upon, of giving directions respecting any probable occurrence which should be avoided, and of adapting the mode of communication to the intellect of the patient or attendants. The operation had been performed, and considerable relief experienced; the orifice was closed by compress and a bandage, and was supposed to be secure. The patient was a child, and, as too often happens in humble life, when the alternate exercise of indiscreet indulgence and hasty chastisement super-

sede more rational means of moulding the character, was habitually fretful and obstinate. The mother had unguardedly left the child without any attendant, and when she returned found the child, as it were, deluged in blood, and expiring or dead. The gentleman who had performed the operation was known to be liberally educated, and humane and attentive in the exercise of his profession, yet, strange as it may seem, I found an altercation had taken place, scarcely to be expected, recently after so lamentable an occurrence; the unfortunate mother accused the practitioner of having killed the child, and he retorting that she had caused its death by leaving it for the purpose of going out to get drunk; perhaps some cause of blame might attach to each. The orifice had certainly been made larger than I should, under ordinary circumstances, have deemed necessary, and the poor mother was not free from indications of intoxication. Notwithstanding the large orifice, as the bleeding had been restrained in the first instance, it might have been commanded subsequently, and even supposing the child by its restlessness to have misplaced the bandage and compress, yet had the probability of such an occurrence been pointed out, and constant watching insisted upon and adopted in consequence, even had the bleeding recurred, a finger placed upon the orifice would have restrained the further loss of blood, till the parts might have been more effectually secured by the professional attendant, and thus the fatal event have been prevented.

Should there be great difficulty in restraining the hæmorrhage after bleeding from the neck, a circumstance which I have never experienced, although I have had frequently occasion to bleed from the external jugular in cases of hooping cough, croup, &c., where the impulse given to the blood during a fit of coughing was extremely liable to disturb the

parts, yet care being taken that the orifice has been no larger than required, I have found the flow of blood to cease immediately on removing the pressure below the opening; so that I have generally found a strip of plaster, after the orifice had been carefully closed, a sufficient security; but if there has been the slightest probability of return of bleeding, I have adopted the precaution of using graduated compresses and bandage, in addition to careful superintendence. Although from the extensive motion of the neck there may be some difficulty in retaining the bandage in its proper situation, yet, when we come to consider the use and application of bandages, I shall have occasion to demonstrate that the simple roller, or bandage, may be so applied as to make efficient pressure upon any part of the body.

The mode which nature adopts to restrain hæmorrhage is, first by fainting, by which the blood, ceasing to flow, coagulates at the point from which it issued; and secondly, by extravasation into the surrounding cellular membrane, there coagulating and mechanically diminishing or closing the aperture from which the blood had flowed. This is often observed after the application of leeches, the livid colour thus produced by extravasation of blood having sometimes been mistaken as an indication of mortification.

Should any case occur in which there appeared sufficient reason to apprehend the occurrence of secondary hæmorrhage, although I consider it the duty of every surgeon to avoid the unnecessary infliction of pain upon those confided to his care, yet I should employ the twisted suture, as affording perfect security against secondary hæmorrhage, in preference to the risk of loss of life, which I have shown you may result; but means of treatment must vary with circumstances; with attentive nurses, and the practitioner within a

short distance, danger may be prevented; whilst in the country, and at a great distance from the patient, should the attendants be wanting in presence of mind, death might ensue before the practitioner could arrive.

I would again exhort you to reflect on the rational indications of the treatment of disease drawn from the consideration of the previous history and symptoms, and to see your way clearly, that you may not use dangerous and severe remedies when the patient's safety may be effected by mild and safe measures. Thus in apoplexy, and some other diseases, when a vital organ, such as the brain, may be undergoing a dangerous injury by the bursting of one of its blood-vessels, it is our imperative duty, if called in time, to adopt instantaneously those energetic resources of the healing art which are capable of immediately arresting the further progress of injury, and you will find, in such cases, the abstraction of blood from the jugular vein, or from the temporal artery, in such quantity as to act as a general blood-letting, amongst the most efficacious means with which we are acquainted.

Having shown you that the taking of blood from the external jugular vein may be performed with safety and advantage, under judicious treatment, when the circumstances of any case require it, yet you must be aware that the attempt to perform it often fails in the hands of those who have not been at the pains to learn, with sufficient precision, the various circumstances of situation, depth, and relative position of the parts concerned in the operation. The instances I have adduced will be sufficient to put you on your guard that the operation is not always free from danger; hence I need not enlarge on the unprincipled folly of performing a dangerous operation when the recovery of the patient may be equally promoted by safe and simple means. If patients sometimes attach undue importance to

operations which may have been needlessly performed, such consideration ought not, for one instant, to bias your judgment in the choice of means, which ought to be guided solely by the welfare of the patient confiding in or committed to your care and integrity.

Taking this view of the duties of your profession, you cannot be made too sensible, that the ordinary duties of surgery, are much more frequently demanded than those exertions of talent rarely required, which sometimes stamp the character of a daring operator; and as you advance in life you will become convinced, that precision in the use of ordinary means is of higher value, as subservient to the relief of your suffering fellow-creatures, than any degree of skill in extraordinary operations.

Mr. Alcock's Lecture.

ON RUNNING.

There are few general directions given by physicians which are so commonly misunderstood, and imperfectly followed, as the injunction to take free exercise—to walk out daily, and to allow no state of the weather to interrupt the regularity of this exercise. It is not the mere circumstance of walking which can give any vigour to the frame or strength to the digestive functions. Walking is the means of effecting a certain object, and this last it is that promises the general benefits of exercise. It is by this means we wish to quicken and invigorate the circulation, and give action to the functions of the skin—to give a start to the blood and produce a general perspiration. These two purposes effected, the digestion is improved, the bowels kept in order, the equilibrium of the circulation preserved, the mind invigorated, and all the powers of the system strengthened;—general health therefore is the consequence, and without those effects of walking the general health will decline.

Now in ninety-nine cases in an hundred—we speak far within bounds—walk-

ing is so conducted as not to give a start to the blood or produce general perspiration. In just this proportion of cases therefore it is useless—nay worse than useless; it induces fatigue, and not vigour, and persons tell us they “don't see that exercise does them any good.” Why, they don't take any exercise. They draw one leg after another it is true, and this they do perhaps for half an hour, or until they can scarce draw it any longer. But this is not what physicians mean by walking. It is a technical term when employed in a prescription, and must be understood before it can be followed. By walking, we mean a quick active exercise of the locomotive organs, continued for some time, performed in open air, and so conducted as to induce a general glow and moisture upon the surface. If persons would remember this, they would see how powerful an instrument is walking in the preservation as well as the restoration of health.

We often see men, looking pale and sickly, carefully guarded from the air, creeping along our streets with a weak and tardy step, and we always pity such men. They are undoubtedly following, as they think, the prescription of their physician, who has recommended walking. But they have misunderstood his meaning, and although they get by their walk the benefit of the air, they return languid and fatigued. Let such step as quickly as they can, let them make an exertion to walk as fast as their strength will allow, and if very weak let them walk six rods instead of creeping half a mile, and they will feel refreshed. Perspiration is more readily induced in proportion to debility, and therefore all its benefits may be gained with comparative ease by the enfeebled.

As a general custom, loitering or walking slow is injurious, inasmuch as it deprives individuals of the privilege of that preventive of disease which ought to be neglected by no one. It is a general custom in Europe for gentlemen to run through the streets. This is an admira-

ble custom, and most sincerely do we wish it could be adopted this side the Atlantic. It has a thousand advantages. It quickens and invigorates the circulation. It enlivens the mind, promotes healthful perspiration, and gratifies the impatience which arises from the mental activity it produces. Not that we would have men always running through the streets, but let every man, several times in the day, particularly when in haste, run instead of walk, and he will be better able, in body and mind, to attend to his business, live longer, and enjoy life better.

TETANUS.

In this complaint, no remedies are now so generally in use as opium and the warm bath. A German physician has recently written on the subject, and condemns the use of these means. He has met with great success by first bleeding the patient freely, and next applying bladders of ice to the head and along the spine. After four hours the jaw falls; an emetic of antimony is then given, followed by an enema of flax-seed tea, and half an ounce of spirit of turpentine, and a tea-spoon or two of laudanum. By these means, he says, the proper connexion between the muscular and nervous system is restored, and the patient is in no danger of a relapse. The use of the ice should be persevered in till spasm be subdued.

THE TEETH.

We have often said that teeth require great care. First let them be well set in order, by removing the tartar, &c. with a proper instrument, and using frequently a large and as *stiff* a brush as can be procured. It should be used *dry* two or three times a week, for this will harden the gums, and prevent the collection of extraneous matter, and give a fine polish to the teeth. A simple brush, however hard, can never injure the enamel, and a soft brush is worse than useless. The best brushes seldom admit of use more than a month or two, when they become

soft, and are good for nothing. Cologne water, diluted, may be used occasionally, and will be found both agreeable and useful. It will give a fine, clear complexion to the teeth, and preserve the breath pure and fragrant.

AN ORATION ON PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION, BY JOHN D. GODMAN.

This performance contains a great deal of good advice which is calculated to be particularly useful to the younger members of the profession. The author evidently has elevated views of the dignity of medicine, and has made some very sensible observations on the subject, and laid down many excellent rules for attaining a solid professional reputation. His style is not sufficiently simple to please our taste, but on this we do not much insist, having much greater confidence in the healing powers of time and experience, for the cure of this malady, than in any sour criticisms of our own. We respect the author's independence in vindicating the utility of classical learning against the perverse and superficial objections which wrong-headed and shallow thinkers are busy in urging against one of the most important branches of human learning.

MECHANICAL TREATMENT OF POISONS.

The mechanical treatment of poisons is a subject of considerable importance; but there is a period to which its usefulness is limited, namely, whilst the poison remains in the stomach; for it is in vain to expect relief from the extraction of the remainder, after a sufficient quantity to destroy life may have passed the pylorus, or have been carried into the circulation.

There is another circumstance of which we should be aware, that whilst the stomach retains its irritability, the poison may be as effectually and as speedily evacuated by vomiting, as by the use of a pump; and if such emetics as the sulphate of zinc, which in sufficient dose acts almost instantaneously, be timely ad-

ministered, the occasions for the use of mechanical means will be found to be much less frequent than has been supposed to be necessary.

Should we, however, be convinced that the welfare of our patient requires the stomach to be emptied mechanically, the means may be both simple and efficient, viz., a simple, well constructed syringe, with a flexible tube. Even the syringe may be dispensed with, unless it be desired to inject fluid forcibly into the stomach; for the tube alone, if of proper dimensions, when passed down into the stomach is sufficient to evacuate its contents, either by being used as a siphon, or by a very moderate pressure of the hand upon the region of the stomach.

In injecting the stomach previous to withdrawing its contents, there is one precaution which must not be omitted, should the patient be in a state of insensibility, and be supported with the head and shoulders raised, as the most convenient position for the operator. If the injection be continued beyond what the stomach can contain, instead of the fluid flowing out by the lower orifice of the stomach, it is apt to rise by the side of the tube. If the tube be very soft, a small piece of whalebone, similar to the handle of a probang, may be inserted in the tube, when it is introduced, to give it firmness and elasticity, withdrawing the whalebone when the tube is fully introduced.

If the simple syringe be used, it may be half filled with tepid water, and when joined to the tube, the liquid may be injected; by raising the handle of the syringe, so as to fill the syringe, double the quantity of the fluid injected may be withdrawn from the stomach; and this process may be repeated as often as necessary, till the stomach be perfectly washed, and its contents evacuated.

There is a danger in the use of either syringe or pump, in awkward hands, which may be productive of

distress and injury to the patient; it is the drawing the coats of the stomach forcibly within the tube; and when it is considered that the surface thus drawn in may be subjected to a force equal to the pressure of the atmosphere, it forms a strong ground for the preference of more simple means, in the use of which a want of dexterity does not endanger the patient. By either using the flexible tube as a siphon, or by a very moderate degree of pressure with the hand upon the region of the stomach, the fluid contents of the stomach may be made to flow through the tube in a full stream, and the application of a greater force, when the lesser is fully adequate, is, to say the least, unnecessary and useless.

CHRONIC INFLAMMATION.

Chronic inflammation is frequently produced through the influence of the mind on the body. Thus long-continued grief will stop the secretion of the bile; anxiety of mind produces disease in the breasts. But whatever is the cause of the arrest of secretion, some congestion is the result; as enlargement of the liver, glands, or the joints; the formation of common tumors, or those of a specific character, as fungus or scirrhus.

In diseases of a chronic kind, give calomel and opium; and I cannot point out to you a better example of its good effects than is observable in chronic inflammation of the joints, or testicle; in the former case, when assisted by counter-irritation, it is by far the best remedy. The most common remedy, and probably, as a general one, the best that is administered in chronic inflammation, is the pilul. hydrarg. submur. comp.: it acts at the same time on the liver, intestines, and skin; and if you can succeed in restoring these, the disease will disappear, and its effects will be absorbed; for, by these medicines, in proportion as you increase the se-

cretion, you excite the action of the absorbent vessels.

Another excellent medicine, for the cure of chronic complaints, is the oxymuriate of mercury, (corrosive sublimate,) dissolved in nitrous æther, and combined with tincture of bark or of rhubarb, or with the decoction of sarsaparilla; continue it for some time, watching its effects with care, always keeping in mind that mercury, given to excess, will tend to increase rather than destroy constitutional irritation: as sarsaparilla seems to possess the power of lessening irritability, we frequently give it with mercury, and in this combination they are administered with the greatest advantage.

Chronic disorders in children require large doses of the hydrarg. e creta and rhubarb mixed together, and given every night and morning; this compound is exceedingly mild, and will have a particularly benign influence. In children, also, the oxymuriate of mercury, dissolved in an ounce of the tincture of bark, and given in doses of from half a drachm to one drachm, twice a day, in water, according to the age and constitution of the child, is a very valuable medicine. It is said, that the oxymuriate is decomposed by the tincture of bark; but whether it is so or not, it is attended with so many good effects, that I strongly recommend it, particularly in diseases of the mesenteric glands. Calomel and rhubarb, the hydrargyrus e creta and soda, are also medicines of much power in the chronic diseases of children.

Lastly, in some cases, it is not advisable to give these little creatures mercury; a medicine composed of rhubarb and carbonate of iron, or of rhubarb, soda, and columba, given often, and in small doses will be more beneficial, as these act as aperients, improve the digestive functions, increase the appetite, and restore the general health, without the danger of exciting irritation at

the moment, or rendering the system afterwards irritable.

CRUPAL HERNIA.

At a meeting of the French Academy of Medicine, Messrs Gimelle, Hedelhofer, and Lisfranc, in reporting on the *essai sur la hernie crurale* of Dr Manche, protested against his advice to divide the integuments parallel with the fold of the groin, instead of making the first incision parallel with the hernial sac; they, however, approved of his sentiments in regard to the methods of freeing the incarcerated intestine. The incision, for this purpose, is to be made, nor at the superior part of the ring as is recommended by Gimbernat, not at the inferior part of the opening, according to the precept of Scarpa, but upwardly upon Poupart's ligament, by one or two slight cuts. One of the committee had operated twice in this way successfully, and with much greater ease than by any of the other procedures in use. This part of the report gave rise to a discussion, which went to show, that of all the methods of operating for crural hernia, the best is that in which the ligament of Gimbernat is the part divided, seeing it is attended with no other risk than that of wounding the obturator artery, when this vessel happens to run immediately behind the ligament, and this is a case which is extremely uncommon.

SMALL POX.—M. Villermé lately read a report to the Academie Royale de Medecine upon the number of deaths by small pox from the 1st of January to the 1st of October, 1825, in each of the twelve districts of Paris. The total amount of deaths was 1264. The first is the district in which the smallest number happened, viz. eleven; and the 12th that in which the maximum occurred, viz. 399. It is in the poorest quarters, therefore, or those whose inhabitants particularly oppose the practice of vaccination, that the small pox makes the greatest havoc. Of the 1264 victims, 764 were males, 500 females. This difference is owing to girls being more frequently vaccinated than boys:

without doubt the hope of preserving personal charms unimpaired, is the motive which leads to the more frequent vaccination of girls than boys.

M. Villermé has ascertained that in the 4th district the unvaccinated boys are in the proportion of one to four, whilst the girls are only in that of one to ten.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Accidental, 1—Brain Fever, 3—Bursting blood vessel, 1—Consumption, 6—Canker Rash, 1—Drowned, 1—Intemperance, 1—Lung Fever, 2—Thistilo, 1—Teething, 1—Tumor in the throat, 1—Unknown, 2—Stillborn, 2.

MECKEL'S MANUAL.

PROPOSALS for publishing by Subscription a Manual of General, Descriptive, and Pathological Anatomy, by J. F. MECKEL, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Halle. Translated from the German, with additions, by A. J. L. JOURDAN and G. BRESCHET, members of the Royal Academy of Medicine at Paris, &c. Translated from the French, by G. BRADFORD, M. D.

Advertisement of the French Editors.

A work has long been desired, which should comprise all the important facts in the sciences of general, descriptive, and pathological Anatomy and Physiology. Such a work required an acquaintance with these sciences equally extensive and profound, and could not have been executed except by one of the first anatomists of the age. M. Meckel, who so worthily sustains the hereditary medical celebrity of his family, and to whom we are indebted for many other works of the first order, has not feared to undertake a work of such magnitude. His treatise of Anatomy, regarded as a classic in Germany, cannot but be received with equal favour in our own country. It is one of the most valuable productions of the school of Bichat,—of that Bichat, who has made France the envy of Europe, and to whom M. Meckel renders the noblest tribute, that talents can pay to genius, the tribute of admiration, without enthusiasm. We have endeavoured to add to the translation of the Manual every fact, with which the science has been enriched since its publication.

Paris, 1825.

The subscriber has been encouraged to undertake the translation of Professor

Meckel's Manual, by the advice of gentlemen of eminence in the profession, by the celebrity which this Manual has obtained in Europe, and by the consideration that the want of such a work must be continually felt by every scientific member of the profession in this country, and that there is none of the kind now existing in the English language.

G. BRADFORD.

The medical literature of this country appears to want an accurate work on anatomy, which comprehends the observations and improvements of late years. In the French language, the productions of Boyer and Bichat are to be considered admirable examples of exact description. The habits and taste of this country require a work differing from these, in its combining with anatomy an account of the uses and the diseased changes of the parts described. Such a labour has been executed in Germany, by Meckel of illustrious name, and this has been lately adopted into the French language by Messrs. Jourdan and Breschet. With these recommendations in its favour, and combining with them, as it does, the excellent qualities of the treatises of Soemmering, Boyer, Bichat, Portal, and the best English authors, a translation of the "Manual of Anatomy" of Meckel would be a very desirable, and, I doubt not, a very successful publication.

JOHN C. WARREN.

Boston, June, 1826.

Extract from a notice of the French edition of Meckel, contained in the Medico-Chirurgical Review, for July, 1825.

"This is the best work on Anatomy ever published.—Here would be an excellent book to translate."

CONDITIONS.

The translation will be printed on a new type and good paper, in three volumes, octavo, of from 600 to 650 pages each. The price to subscribers will be \$2,50 a volume, payable on delivery.

Should the subscription authorize it, the work will be put to press by the first of August, and published in the course of the ensuing winter.

Cambridge, June 1, 1826.

Subscription papers are left at the Bookstores of Messrs. Cummings, Hilliard & Co. and H. Gray, Boston, and William Hilliard, Cambridge, where gentlemen disposed to patronize the work are requested to forward their names.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, Proprietor, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St. to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid). Price two dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, two dollars and a half will be required, and this will, in no case, be deviated from.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 1826.

NO. 8.

MEDICAL GALVANISM.

A new mode of applying galvanism is recommended by M. Bailly, physician to the Hospital de la Pitié, and M. Meyraux. The doctrine is tested and the results given in the following cases from a late number of the *Archives Generales*.

Rheumatic affection of the Thigh cured by Galvanism.

A man of an advanced age, who had been much addicted to venereal excesses, had suffered several rheumatic attacks. About six months ago, having exposed himself to damp weather, he was seized with a rheumatic affection through the whole course of the right thigh. At first the pain was rather of a dull, heavy nature, but after continuing it for several months the pain became more acute, and increased until he was scarcely able to move the hip joint. A needle was planted in the middle of this joint, another was placed in the interior surface, and a galvanic communication established by two conducting threads. The sensation and contraction produced through the whole extent of the affected part demonstrated the passage of the galvanic fluid. The phenomena are more marked at the place where the positive unites with the negative fluid. This operation, repeated four times in the same way, succeeded in easing the pain, and restoring complete energy to the joint.

Rheumatic affection of the Arm, with incapacity of moving it, cured by Galvanism.

R. H., aged 55, had been for many years subject to rheumatic affections. In 1819 he was seized with severe pains throughout the muscular system, and swellings of the joints,

which were mitigated by the use of baths, leeches, and poultices. The next year, the pain in the whole course of the deltoid muscle and the fore-arm became so severe, that the patient was unable to move the joint. The pain subsequently became intense, but the incapacity of moving the arm, together with some degree of swelling continued, and resisted the employment of baths, blisters, frictions, and simple acupuncture, which last remedy was tried five times. When we saw the patient, the muscles were much diminished in size, but the sensibility of the part appeared to be increased, for when the skin was pinched, the patient suffered acute pain, without, however, being able to move the arm. Two needles were inserted at the origin and terminations of the brachial plexus, and the galvanic communication established. The action of the galvanic pile consisted of four elements. The areola was formed, the needles were in an instant oxidated; a small black point was observed in the centre of the areola; some small drops of water escaped. The conducting liquid was water, acidulated with a sixteenth part of nitric acid. When the communication was established, the patient felt a pricking sensation; there was not much contraction, but there was a sense of tension in all the nervous ramifications. On continuing the current, the patient complained of insupportable pain, which he compared to what is felt when fire is applied to a part. We continued the operation for the space of 25 minutes. Three days after, the patient was sensible of returning power in the arm, and by repeating

the operation, he was in twenty-five days completely cured.

It is a remarkable circumstance in this case, that during the short time the patient was submitted to the action of the galvanic fluid, the cellular tissue was observed to be augmented in volume, and the muscles which covered it to become developed. This completely overthrows one of the opinions of Bichat, who has said in his general anatomy, that alterations of the nutritive system are entirely independent of the nervous system. Indeed it seems highly probable from this and other similar cases, that we shall in many instances be able to arrest the progress of atrophy, by the action of the galvanic fluid on the muscular and nervous systems.

Neuralgia cured by Galvanism.

A patient, aged 34, had suffered, for the last six months, a severe pain in the branches which the frontal nerve distributes to the soft parts of the cranium, and the direction of the trunk towards the bottom of the orbit. The pain varied in intensity at different times, but never entirely intermitted, and had hitherto baffled all the treatment which had been employed, such as local bleeding, frictions, and opiates. The circulating, digestive, and respiratory systems, in this patient, were in their natural state. When we first saw him, the violence of the pain had extended to the facial and sub-orbital nerves, and seemed to produce the same effect in all their ramifications as in those of the frontal.

A needle was introduced in the direction of the cartilaginous pulley of the great oblique muscle, within which passes the internal branch of the frontal, and another was placed on the middle of the corrugator supercilii. The communication with the galvanic pile was established, when the patient felt severe pain in the bottom of the orbit, and experienced various optical illusions, such as the flashing of light before the

eyes. The orbicularis palpebrarum, corrugator supercilii and frontal, were contracted every time we endeavoured to establish the communication with the rectangles, which were only separated from each other by four elements. We attempted to increase the interval by two additional pairs, but the contraction and irritability became so violent, that we were obliged to desist. The patient was only galvanized for the space of twenty minutes, and did not experience much relief on the following day. Three days after, the first needle was placed in the direction of the levator palpebrae superioris, where the branch of the orbiter-frontal nerve commences, and the second was carried towards all the parts where the nerve seems to terminate; the communication with the pile was established as before. The pain abated after this second operation, and after ten operations the patient was completely cured.

Chorea cured by Galvanism.

A girl, after difficult dentition, was affected with convulsions of the muscles of the right cheek, which soon extended to the shoulder of the same side. The disorder had resisted all the treatment which had been employed, and at the age of 7 years the symptoms had become more violent. When she was brought to La Pitié, she was in a debilitated state; the muscles on the right side were much wasted; the alternate contraction and relaxation of the muscles in the face produced constant convulsions and distortions. Galvanism was first applied to this patient by simple communication, without the introduction of needles, but she derived no benefit from it; a needle was then introduced near the first and second cervical vertebrae, and another was placed near the division of the brachial plexus. Three elements developed enough of the galvanic fluid to produce decided contractions and a painful sensation. The girl felt so much relieved by

the operation, that the next day she asked to be galvanized again; but as we happened to touch, by mistake, with the thread which served as a conductor to the negative fluid, an element at a great distance from the first element, she felt so great a shock, and such severe pain, that the needles were torn out from their situation, and we had considerable difficulty in persuading her to place herself again in the galvanic circle. The operation was prolonged for half an hour, and six sittings sufficed to cure, completely, a disorder which had for years resisted the most powerful remedies that could be employed.

Messrs. Bailly and Meyraux state, that galvanism, combined with acupuncture, had been employed with the most decided success in a great number of cases, the details of which they intend shortly to lay before the public. The pain produced by the operation is inconsiderable, and the galvanic fluid possesses the singular property of never inflaming the part which it penetrates. What then, they exclaim, is the nature of this fluid which burns and melts metals, which puts charcoal in a state of incandescence, and which traverses the living tissues of the body, in which it increases sensibility and contractility in so marked a manner, without leaving a trace of disturbance behind it? The phenomena are altogether inexplicable.

DISEASE PRODUCED BY DRINKING COLD WATER IN HOT WEATHER.

At this season of the year there is no subject on which a few words may be said with greater promise of advantage, than the means of relieving the disorder usually produced by drinking cold water in hot weather. No summer passes without many lives being lost by this cause; and none should be allowed to arrive without something to remind the profession in what way the evil may be best averted.

In Rush's Medical Inquiries there are some very pertinent and useful remarks on this subject. He lays it down as a settled point, that,

"Three circumstances generally concur to produce disease or death from drinking cold water. 1. The patient is extremely warm. 2. The water is extremely cold. And, 3. A large quantity of it is suddenly taken into the body. The danger from drinking the cold water is always in proportion to the degrees of combination which occur in the three circumstances that have been mentioned.

In a few minutes after the patient has swallowed the water, he is affected with dimness of sight, he staggers in attempting to walk, and unless supported, falls to the ground; he breathes with difficulty; a rattling is heard in his throat; his nostrils and cheeks expand and contract in every act of respiration; his face appears suffused with blood, and of a livid colour; his extremities become cold, and his pulse imperceptible; and unless relief is speedily obtained, the disorder terminates in death in four or five minutes.

More frequently, patients are seized with acute spasms in the breast and stomach. These spasms are so painful as to produce syncope, and even asphyxia. They are sometimes of the tonic, but more frequently of the clonic kind. In the intervals of the spasms the patient appears to be perfectly well. The intervals between each spasm become longer or shorter, according as the disease tends to life or death.

It may not be improper to take notice, that punch, beer, and even toddy, when drank under the same circumstances as cold water, have all been known to produce the same morbid and fatal effects."

Thus far the account corresponds with the cases which have fallen to our observation.

As it regards the method of removing these unpleasant symptoms and preventing their fatal result, Dr Rush says he knows but one remedy, and that is LIQUID LAUDANUM. True, it is an important and indispensable remedy, and we have frequently been told by patients after their recovery that they felt they must have died had they not taken the laudanum. It seems, as they say, to go to the right place at once, and effect just the purpose most desired. External auxiliary means are also necessary to expedite the removal of the disease. The body, and more particularly the extremities should be wrapt in hot blankets, and warmth and friction unceasingly applied to the hands and feet. As soon as practicable, the laudanum combined with æther should be administered in a large dose. As much should be given at a dose as can be taken in safety, and the same repeated every half hour till its effects become obvious. A little Spirit of Peppermint may be given occasionally, or Aqua Ammoniæ, as the judgment of the practitioner may direct.

In addition to these means we would recommend that the water be abstracted from the stomach as soon as possible, by the stomach syringe. When spasms are induced by any hard or indigestible substance which has been eaten, we all know the immediate benefit afforded by an emetic. By the use of the stomach syringe nearly the same result may be expected by the removal of the offending cause of the disease in question, although here the cause will have operated so far before we can see the patient, that the means pointed out will be required. The syringe also will prevent the water from continuing its action and gives us a fair field of action.

To prevent the evil we have spoken of, we beg leave to refer the reader to the following remarks of Dr Rush.

" If neither the voice of reason, nor the fatal examples of those who have perished from this cause, are sufficient to produce restraint in drinking a large quantity of cold liq-

uors, when the body is *preternaturally* heated, then let me advise to,

1. Grasp the vessel out of which you are about to drink, for a minute or longer with both your hands. This will abstract a portion of heat from the body, and impart it at the same time to the cold liquor, provided the vessel is made of metal, glass, or earth; for heat follows the same laws, in many instances, in passing through bodies, with regard to its relative velocity, which we observe to take place in electricity.

2. If you are not furnished with a cup, and are obliged to drink by bringing your mouth in contact with the stream which issues from a pump, or a spring, always wash your hands and face previously to your drinking, with a little of the cold water. By receiving the shock of the water first upon those parts of the body, a portion of its heat is conveyed away, and the vital parts are thereby defended from the action of the cold.

INFLAMMATION.

Sedatives in Inflammation.

By the term *sedatives*, we mean such applications to the body, as tend to diminish arterial action. *Blood-letting* and other means of weakening the system, have this effect indirectly. But there are some remedies which are supposed to act as *sedatives* in a more direct way to the system at large, as well as locally, and which we are now to consider. To this head belong *cold*, variously applied; diluted acids; certain neutral salts, as nitre, acetate of ammonia, and nitrate of potass, or the common saline draught; preparations of lead; and the *digitalis*. These require to be separately noticed.

General *sedatives* appear to be useful only when *pyrexia* or a febrile state accompanies the inflammation; nor indeed, even in this case, on all occasions; for it has been observ-

ed that inflammation is sometimes best treated by general *stimulants* under the name of *sudorifics*, which of course tend rather to increase febrile action at first. Where this is not the object, *sedatives* may be properly employed.

Cold, in order to act as a *sedative*, must be applied steadily and uniformly, and in a moderate degree only, so as not to excite a very powerful or painful sensation; for then it acts rather as a *counter-irritant*. It may be applied to the lungs and skin, by the admission of cool air; or where the heat is greater, the skin may be moistened from time to time with either cold or tepid water, according to the season or the feelings of the patient; for in either case the evaporation that succeeds will carry off the excess of heat from the body. *Cold drinks*, or even ice, may be administered for the same purpose. The application of *cold* in either of these ways, makes an important part of the treatment of fevers in general, both *common* and *specific*, and is a great improvement in modern practice, for which we are principally indebted to Sydenham. It has contributed, more than almost any thing else, to lessen the mortality of fevers, especially the *small pox* and *scarlatina*. In the application of it for this purpose, care should be taken not to produce sudden constriction of the extreme vessels on the surface; and this caution is particularly necessary in *measles*, and in pulmonic inflammation in general.

Diluted acids very generally produce a refrigerant or cooling effect, which must be considered as the result of diminished arterial action. The natural appetite for these in a febrile state of the system, is a sufficient indication for their use. Those acids are perhaps to be preferred that are not liable to go into fermentation, as the mineral acids, as we call them. On this account, vinegar is preferable to the recent vegetable

acid; and it was anciently much in use for the purpose diluted in water, under the name of *oxycrate*.

The *neutral salts* have been probably much overrated in this respect. *Nitre* has been always called a *cooling* remedy. But this has probably arisen from the peculiar impression it makes on the tongue, which however is but an unsatisfactory indication of its effect on the system. The *acetate of ammonia* and the common *saline draught*, serve little other purposes than to fill up a void, and to amuse the patient with the idea that something is doing for his relief—a point, by the bye, that must not wholly be lost sight of in practice.

Lead, from its deleterious properties, is very ill adapted to general use, though probably a powerful *sedative*. I have often experienced its good effects in this way, in relieving *hectic fever*; and provided it is used in moderate quantities, as a grain or two of the *super-acetate*, and continued for a few days, it may be employed with perfect safety.

The *digitalis*, by its power of restraining the velocity of the circulation, is often of great service in diminishing febrile heat; but it has other effects which render it an equivocal remedy. Probably, however, it is the best we possess in *hectic fever*.

Narcotics in Inflammation.

Opium is either very serviceable, or the contrary, as a remedy for inflammation, according to circumstances, and the judgment and discrimination with which it is employed; but it is more frequently used with ill effect, than the contrary. The temptation to have recourse to it is so strong, on account of its tendency to relieve pain and to procure sleep, that it is very often misapplied; for it seldom can be properly employed for these purposes simply. Pain and want of sleep may proceed from causes that do not admit of the use of opium. It is disadvantageous

also in another respect. We often form our opinion of the state and progress of inflammation from the degree of pain the patient is suffering. Now opium may render him insensible to the pain by stupifying him, without at all diminishing the inflammation, and often even with the effect of aggravating it.

Now we shall best understand the use of opium in inflammation, by first considering its general effects in the system. This medicine exerts its primary and specific operation on the brain and nervous system altogether. There are very good proofs from observation, of its increasing the arterial action of the brain, to which, therefore, it is to be considered as a *stimulus*; and it is not improbable that it excites, and subsequently disturbs, the sensorial functions, as a consequence of this excited arterial action. Its effects on the rest of the system appear to arise out of this previous change induced by it in the condition of the brain. These effects differ at different times, according to the state of general strength and irritability, and perhaps other circumstances that are not sufficiently known.

In recent and active inflammation of the brain itself, whether it be that variety we term *phrenitis*, or that which is called *idiopathic fever*, opium is highly injurious, and especially in strong and young subjects. But in a very advanced stage of those diseases, where the general vascular action throughout the system is much reduced, either from the continuance of the disease or the use of remedies, opium appears to be of great service: and the same observations apply to other inflammations. In those inflammations that naturally terminate by increased secretion, as of the mucous membrane, opium is improper till the secretion is established. On this ground it is generally injurious in *pneumonia*, as tending to prevent secretion and consequent expectoration. It may be considered a

pretty general rule, that where blood-letting is required opium is inadmissible. Bloodletting, however, may render opium proper where it was not so previously. Where irritability is in excess, which is generally indicated by a very frequent pulse, opium is sometimes useful, even in the early stage of the disease; but it often requires to be preceded by a moderate loss of blood. This furnishes a sort of exception to the general rule.

(To be continued.)

COLD AFFUSION IN SMALL POX.

BY MR FOSBROKE.

Whether the use of cold affusion in small pox is entirely new, I know not, but, at all events, it can have been but very seldom practised.

A woman in Sherborne-street, named Somers, requested me to see her child on account of very unfavourable symptoms manifested in the second stage of the disease, about the period of the maturation of the pustules. The fact was, it was a case of very severe regular small pox, in which the pustules on the face and lower extremities were so close, as in many places to coalesce. These parts were very much swollen, the soreness of the fauces was very great, and the heat of the skin excessive.

On account of my attendance upon a sick child, belonging to another family, on the first floor, I became a casual observer of this case, from day to day, and, for this reason, was applied to at the period just intimated.

The child, at this period, was labouring under a greater degree of restlessness and irritation than at any former period of the disease; the pustules had acquired the fullest size, but in common with the spaces betwixt them had assumed a bluer and more bloodless hue than at any time previously. The throat was exceedingly painful, and the development of heat on the skin, though

now at times diminished, was very great.*

I have ever considered Sydenham's observation, that the danger of small pox, in this pustular stage, is proportioned to the number of pustules, as correct, though the theory by which the effect is explained is a mere humoral imagination. He likens them, in the impressions which they excite, to so many phlegmons or imposthumes. My own opinion is, that the danger or severity of the disease is in the ratio of the number of pustules, and injury done to the cutis, according to the depth to which they penetrate. These effects will be at the height, when the pustules have reached their fullest magnitude and ripeness.

Upon this view of obvious analogies, I recommended the immediate use of the cold affusion with the sponge, and its repeated application, if relief was communicated.

Of course my prescription was amazingly deprecated by the *viellesse* of the neighbourhood, but, luckily, having to deal with an agent in the mother with more medical knowledge than one in five hundred of the different orders of persons in this town, the proposition was immediately acceded to and fulfilled.

The general irritation, heat of surface, and increasing debility, were so immediately alleviated, that the ablution was renewed repeatedly, and the boy is now recovered. After the first time he demanded the reapplication himself several times a day.

The second son, after recovering from an affection of the bowels, fol-

lowed by one pustule on the nates, similar to vaccina in all its stages, but probably herpetic (for there is a great general relation betwixt these two,) was seized with fever, quick pulse, and an eruption of shining vesicles, small but thickly seated, on the abdomen. Finding the heat of the skin almost burning to the feel, and suspecting that the variolous eruption would follow, I ordered the cold affusion with vinegar and water. This was tried at the time and frequently since with complete relief. Variolous eruptions have appeared in the mild distinct form. The patient is up all day and the ablutions are continued, though he expresses dislike of the chilliness occasioned by them. As the pustules have advanced to maturation, however, he has called for the affusion.

In certain "Medical Transactions," published formerly in London, I once read of the case of a man, who being delirious in severe small pox, after the appearance of the eruptions, jumped into a pond of water, and immediately grew better and recovered.

I shall persist in the practice of cold ablution, with attention to the principles of Dr Currie,* and even try the sp. tereb. and those remedies which are applied to burns, if there shall be occasion.

Caustic applications have lately been used by the French as a novel practice. It is very long since Dr Jenner (Essay on Artificial Eruptions) recommended them.

AMPUTATION OF THE NECK OF THE UTERUS.—M. Lisfranc mentioned a case in which he had lately taken away the neck of the uterus; this part was much enlarged, and in a well-marked carcinomatous condition. A slight haemorrhage, that required no extraordinary measures for its suppression, persisted during several days. The woman was speedily convalescent, and at a later period was in the enjoyment of perfect health.—*Archives Generales de Medicine.*

* I have found it very kindly in hysteria.

* The mother says, that the heat of the surface at the time she applied the vinegar and cold water, conveyed a burning sensation to her touch. An amazing quantity of heat, in this form, is concomitant with the eruptive stage in severe cases of small pox. In many places the heads of the pustules had been scratched off, and the constant jactitation of the patient evinced how much irritation they had excited.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Bilious Fever, 1—Childbed, 1—Consumption, 7—Dropsy, 1—Drowned, 1—Fits, 3—Infantile, 1—Intemperance, 2—Measles, 1—Old Age, 1—Phthisis, 1—Typhus Fever, 1—Scarlet Fever, 1—Putrid Fever, 1—Unknown, 3—Stillborn, 1.

Materia Medica.

THE following are the general outlines of the Materia Medica of the United States, which has been written by WILLIAM ZOLICKOFFER, M. D. &c. &c. and which will, without any farther delay, be published in the month of September. The cause of its not having emanated from the press last fall, may be attributed to the intention that the author had in view, of enlarging it, in order, if possible, to render it more useful and acceptable. The work alluded to will contain 240 pages, octavo, instead of 180, as was formerly contemplated. It will, therefore, be perceived, that the matter contained therein has been increased in consequence of the delay.

CHAPTER 1. Treats of the improvements of the Materia Medica.—2. Modus Operandi of Medicines.—3. Classification of Medicines.

DIVISION 1—Chapter 4. Treats of Narcotics.—5. Antispasmodics.—6. Tonics.—7. Astringents. The four last chapters are included in the first division of general stimulants.

DIVISION 2—Chapter 8. Treats of Emetics.—9. Cathartics.—10. Emmenagogues.—11. Diuretics.—12. Diaphoretics.—13. Expectorants.—14. Sialagogues.—15. Errhines.—16. Epispastics.—17. Escharotics. The chapters included in the second division are such as treat of local stimulants.

DIVISION 3—Chapter 18. Treats of Refrigerents. The articles that are introduced in this division belong to the chemical remedies,

DIVISION 4—Chapter 9. Treats of Demulcents—20. Anthelmintics. These two last belong to the mechanical remedies. The classes of Antacids, Lithontriptics, Diluents, and Emollients, have been omitted, from the circumstance of their not being materials that properly belong to these classes.

The price of the work will be two dollars.

Vaccination.

THE undersigned devotes his professional time chiefly to the business of Vaccination, and to the preservation of the

genuine vaccine matter for the use of others.

Physicians will be regularly supplied with matter for any period of time they may agree for, not less than six years, for an annual fee of 5 dollars payable in advance.

Tickets will also be issued from this Institution that will entitle any Physician or other citizen of the United States, to vaccine matter, on the following terms, viz: *Private Tickets at ten dollars each*, that will entitle the holders of the same to fresh matter as often as they may have occasion to use it for three years; and *Public Tickets at thirty dollars each*, that will entitle all persons residing in the neighbourhood of any particular Post Office (large towns and cities excepted) to the same privilege for a like period of time. Private Tickets are to be held by the purchasers themselves and for their own use; and Public Tickets by the Post Masters through whose particular offices all applications for matter forwarded must be made.—Surgeons of the Army and Navy of the U. S. will be furnished with genuine vaccine matter at all times, free of any expense.

All the privileges of this Institution and advantages heretofore offered to Physicians and others, will be secured to them agreeably to their respective engagements with the undersigned.

No letter addressed to the undersigned will be received at any time unless the Postage thereon is paid.

Vaccine Institution, }
Baltimore, 16th Sept. 1825. }

JAMES SMITH.

☞ The introduction of the Small-Pox into North Carolina about four years since, and which occasioned the repeal of the Law "to encourage Vaccination," was not the result of any mistake made by Dr Smith, as he was at first induced to believe. It has since been discovered and shown that this fatal occurrence is to be attributed entirely to a wicked trick, that was unsuspected at the time, and could not have been guarded against by any person. For a more full account of it, however, the reader who feels interested is referred to a letter addressed by Dr Smith, 3d February, 1824, to Mr Clay, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to a subsequent report of a Committee in Congress to whom it was referred. This report exonerates Dr Smith from all blame, and recommends the adoption of his entire plan for the general distribution of the vaccine matter. Sept. 27.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, Proprietor, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St. to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid). Price two dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, two dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 1826.

NO. 9.

INFLAMMATION.

(Concluded from page 70.)

Opium is sometimes allowable for relieving a particular symptom of great urgency, though it may not be adapted to the disease itself generally. Thus in long-continued watchfulness, a trial of it may be justified, though the result is uncertain. In very acute pain also, it may sometimes be admitted, even where the pain arises from active inflammation. Thus in inflammation of the internal ear, the pain is so acute and intolerable as to bring on delirium; and in this case opium may be called for as a palliative. It may occasionally be given to relieve *spasm*, even though this may be a symptom merely of active inflammation, as in some cases of pleurisy, where the intercostal muscles are affected with violent spasm, occasioning those intolerable *stitches* in the side, as they are called. In like manner it may be at times employed to relieve *vomiting* or *coughing*, when extreme, although not always favourable, to the cause of those symptoms. Now in all these cases, we should use the opium with reluctance, knowing that it is merely intended as a palliative; while we should assiduously employ, at the same time, the means that are proper for the disease itself. Wherever opium is resorted to for the purposes of palliation merely, it is better to employ it in a sufficiently large dose at once, than in small and repeated doses.

Of Astringents or Tonics as remedies for Inflammation.

There are many cases of inflammation in which *astringents* or *tonics* (as they are called) are serviceable.

When, for example, the disease occurs in weak or relaxed habits, that is, where the animal solids altogether want their usual firmness, and have become weak and flabby, in which case the pulse is generally soft also, and the secretions free, the tongue being at the same time moist; in such cases *bloodletting*, though sometimes admissible to a small extent, is never to be largely employed; while *astringents* or *tonics* are of great service. Thus it is that *cinchona* and *bitters* become useful in the latter stages of fevers and other inflammations, though inadmissible at first. This will perhaps explain the contradictory opinions that prevail, in regard to the treatment of *erysipelas*, and some other diseases. The *scrofulous habit* is often marked by such a laxity of solids as I have just described; and then *tonics* are the best remedies. In inflammations that terminate in increased secretion, such as *catarrh* and *diarrhoea*, *tonics* are useful when the secretions are become copious and easy. In inflammations that assume a periodical character, whether *intermitting fever* or any other, the use of *tonics* administered in the intervals, is well known.

It is in circumstances similar to those just mentioned, that *stimulants* are found useful in the treatment of inflammation; that is, when the disease arises in indolent habits that are not easily roused into action, a state of system that is indicated by slowness and feebleness of pulse, and cold extremities; and also where parts naturally torpid are affected, as glandular and ligamentous structures; then we find that ammonia, mezereon, oil of turpentine, and various others, come into use.

Combination of means.

The above may be considered as the general treatment of inflammation. But many of the means recommended may be combined with advantage; and we should in fact, call in as many aids as possible; *as blood-letting, vomiting, purging, sweating, and blistering*; which may be either employed together, or in immediate succession, and generally in the order stated. But some are in opposition to each other, as, for example, *purgings and sweating*, which cannot go on together; *stimulants and sedatives*; *opium*, and increasing the secretions; *general evacuations*, and *tonics*. With regard to the last, however, the opposition is more apparent than real; for experience shows, that small bleedings may be often practised with advantage in inflammations, at the same time with the use of *tonics*, and a nourishing diet, as in the instances of gout, erysipelas, and scrofula.

Of the local Treatment of Inflammation.

The *local* treatment of inflammation, consists in the direct application of remedies to the diseased part. This, however, I have already observed, is of less importance than the *general treatment*; and I shall not, therefore, occupy much of your time on the subject. I may observe, that the *local* treatment is as various as the *general*, many of the means being of directly opposite natures. The object is, to suppress or change the mode of acting in the diseased part, in the hope that healthy action will follow. The *local* remedies for inflammation may be included under the following heads: *topical bleeding*; increasing the secretion from the part itself, or its immediate vicinity; *local stimulants* and irritating applications of various kinds; and, lastly, *sedatives*.

1. Taking blood directly from the inflamed parts, I may observe, is often a great advantage, although the

quantity of blood lost be very small. Thus the *tunica conjunctiva* of the eye, the parts within the mouth, and others, may be often scarified with advantage. The application of *leeches* and even *capping*, as near as possible to the part affected, may be considered in the same light.

2. *Increasing the Secretion* of the part, is often advisable. In inflammation of the mucous membrane, we generally attempt this. Thus in *cattarrh*, we endeavour to produce *expectoration*. In attempting this, however, you are to take care not to employ means that are too stimulant with respect to the rest of the system.

The best way to restore the secretion of parts, where it has been suppressed by active inflammation, is to reduce the inflammation; and this can be best done in general, by *blood-letting*. For instance, in inflammation of the kidney, the administration of oil of turpentine, in order to increase the secretion of urine, would do harm; while *blood-letting*, by diminishing the inflammation, would be more likely to produce the desired effect.

3. *Stimulants* applied to the inflamed parts are occasionally of use. Thus, in *burns*, many practitioners apply oil of turpentine, or alcohol. In *ophthalmia* also, stimulating applications of various kinds are often used with advantage. It is, perhaps, not difficult to understand in what manner such applications do good. It may be upon the principle of *counter-irritation* merely: that is we induce a new mode of acting in the part, as a substitute for the diseased one; and healthy action then follows. Or it may be, that by applying *stimulants*, the vascular action of the part, already in excess, is still further excited, and the power of acting thereby exhausted; so that ultimately a *sedative* effect is produced.

Stimulants are not, however, proper in every case of inflammation. If the disease be very violent, and recent, they would be improper; as

may be observed in the case of acute *ophthalmia*. But, in mild and chronic cases, they are often serviceable.

4. On the other hand, *sedatives* are occasionally used in the cure of inflammation, and with success; and when *cold applications*, *lead* and other *astringents* (which appear to act like *cold* in restraining the action of the vessels) are had recourse to in *ophthalmia*, and in *burns*. The application of *cold* to the surface seems sometimes to extend its influence to the deeper-seated parts, as the joints and the brain. I have seen the greatest apparent benefit derived from the application of *cold water* to the abdomen, in cases of *peritonitis*, after warm fomentations had been used without advantage.

It deserves notice, that the same disease is often treated by opposite means, and with seemingly equal success. Thus where some practitioners use heat and other stimulants in the cure of *ophthalmia* or of *burns*, others have recourse to *cold*; as if it were a matter of indifference which were employed. This shows that there must be some common principle upon which these apparently opposite means act; and this would seem to be the action of *counter-irritation*, so repeatedly alluded to.

There is another view indeed of the subject that may be taken; which is, that neither mode of treatment accomplishes all that is ascribed to it, and that the disease might have terminated nearly as well, if nothing had been done. This, indeed, is far from improbable, when we consider the trifling and inefficient nature of many of the remedies in general use on these occasions.

Treatment of the Specific Inflammations.

The principles now laid down for the treatment of inflammation in general, do not altogether apply to the specific form of inflammation. The proper treatment of these is chiefly learned from experience; and they

must therefore be considered individually, as so many different diseases.

Treatment of the consequences of Inflammation.

Some of the consequences of inflammation disappear spontaneously; others require the assistance of art; while there are some that admit of no relief, but continue through life.

1. *Adhesion*.—When internal inflammation terminates in adhesion, art can do little or nothing for its relief. But when such a termination occurs in the cellular membrane about the joints, producing contraction and rigidity, friction, and forcibly stretching the parts, will sometimes overcome the difficulty. This requires to be done, however, with caution, and can only be slowly and gradually accomplished. It should not be attempted, till the inflammation has nearly or altogether ceased, and then so as not to give pain; otherwise, there will be danger of the inflammation being renewed or aggravated. A variety of liniments are often used on these occasions, and great importance is attached to them, as if they penetrated the skin, so as to come in contact with the rigid and contracted parts, and thereby tended to restore their flexibility and motion. But this is totally without foundation. The skin is not permeable to any thing of this kind. Such applications merely serve the purpose of rendering the friction easier; or else they act as *stimulants*. In most cases, friction with any mild oil answers every useful purpose.

2. *Effusion*, or serous accumulation. This is another of the terminations of inflammation, giving rise to *dropsies* of different parts, the treatment of which will be best understood when we come to speak of dropsy in general.

3. *Increased secretion* followed by preternatural discharges, is a kind of natural cure for inflammation, when it affects the mucous membrane, as in catarrh and diarrhoea.

Such discharges are in general best left to themselves. It is only necessary to interfere by art, when they go to an inconvenient length.

4. *Suppuration.* This is a process with which we have little to do. The medical treatment consists in paying attention to the general health. If there be much febrile action present, this must be reduced by the usual antiphlogistic means. On the other hand, if there be a deficiency of action, *tonics* and *stimulants*, together with nourishing diet will be required. In all cases, it is of the first importance that the patient should be placed in a pure air.

5. *Gangrene.* The same general principles apply to the treatment of *gangrene*, as to that of *suppuration*. The object in both cases is, to keep the system as nearly as possible at the point of health, for then the processes necessary to restoration will take place in the best way, and with very little aid from art. If the general vascular action of the system is in excess, antiphlogistic treatment, (and in strong subjects, even blood-letting to a moderate extent) will be required. In the opposite state of things, *tonics* and even *stimulants* may be sometimes proper. But the large and indiscriminate use of *wine* and *bark* and the like, in all cases of *gangrene*, is highly injudicious, and is founded on the mistaken notion that these are capable of giving strength to the system, a power which no medicine possesses. Nothing can give strength to the body but food, and this of the plainest kind, such at least as the appetite calls for. But such medicines in general destroy appetite, and thus are calculated to defeat the object.

NECESSITY OF WATER IN THE PREPARATION OF LEAD-PLASTER.

Attempting to form lead-plaster, the *Emplastrum Plumbi* of the *Pharmacopæia*, without the use of water, steam being the source of heat, I was surprised to find after several

hours, during which time the litharge and oil had been kept at a temperature of 220 deg., or thereabout, and constantly stirred, not the slightest degree of combination; upon the addition of a small quantity of boiling water, the oil and oxide immediately saponified; water appeared, therefore, to be essential to the formation of the plaster. It also appeared probable the oxide might be in the state of hydrate. To ascertain if such was the case, I precipitated, by potash, the oxide from a quantity of acetate; the precipitate, when washed, was dried by a heat of 220 deg. until it ceased to lose weight. 100 grains, heated to redness in a tube, gave off nearly 8 grains of water, and assumed the orange-colour of litharge: the recently precipitated oxide was, no doubt, therefore, an hydrate; part of which, with somewhat less than two parts of olive oil, without any addition of water, at a temperature of 212 deg., formed, in half an hour, perfect plaster. Each of these experiments has been repeated with precisely the same results. I am induced to mention this fact because all pharmaceutical writers limit the action of the water to that of keeping down the temperature. H. H.—*Journal of Science*.

JAUNDICE IN INFANTS.

Much alarm is frequently excited by the yellow colour assumed by some infants soon after birth. Mothers are fearful their children cannot support so general a disorder. If the evacuations are white, there is some danger attending the complaint, and it is best managed by the administration of calomel. A quarter of a grain mixed with a grain of white sugar should be given every two hours, and washed down with a solution of carbonate of soda until the appearance of the evacuations is changed. The bowels should be bathed with brandy, and treated with care.

If there is any yellowness in the fæces, if they exhibit any marks of the presence

of bile, nothing need be apprehended. The superficial appearance will soon change, and every mark of disorder vanish without our interference.

MULTIPLICATION OF MEDICAL JOURNALS.

We hope it will not be set down as a want of zeal, in the promotion of science, or a jealous disposition in us, to assert that we are sorry to see the number of medical Journals increasing so fast. No less than four new works of this kind are now held up for public favour this side the Potomac; and we apprehend neither will go much beyond the "PROSPECTUS," which, by the way, is usually the best part of a great majority of periodical works. By *this* we learn usually something of the advancement of science in the old world and its recent history in the new. We find what are the number and peculiarities of the similar journals now in circulation, and in what kind of knowledge we are generally supposed to be most deficient. We are delighted to find individuals whose pure and disinterested zeal for the progress of learning is so great as to induce them to undergo the labour of editing a periodical Journal without ever dreaming of its affording them any personal benefit in the way of reputation, practice or money, and others equally magnanimous, whose public spirit induces them to print and publish such a work without the slightest prospect of ever being paid for their paper or ink,—for such must be the views of every discriminating and judicious man who attempts to issue a new medical journal in the present state of the market. Further, we learn something of the arts, how many pages a man can afford to print, press, and stitch, for a dollar, and the price of fair printing paper by the ream.

Now it must be acknowledged that all this is more in amount than we can learn from half the works themselves after they are published. If we have been induced to subscribe in the joy of our hearts on acquiring so much information from the prospectus, we find ourselves grievously

disappointed in our expectations; and many works of the present day are supported by those lazy ones who will not take the trouble to stop their subscription, and those sanguine ones who hope, every number, the next will be a good deal better.

From the correctness of these statements few will be inclined to dissent, and we cannot, therefore, in conscience, wish our fellow craftsmen to lose their labor, the printers their paper, or the subscribers their money and their patience. Active benevolence and not apathy, a wish that others should profit by our experience, and not any sordid motive, prompts us to say that we cannot approve of such constant additions as seem to be making to the periodical works in medicine. We have pages and columns enough now, and instead of striking out a new channel, let the faculty throw their medical stores into those which are already open. It will be better to have among us a *d dozen* journals full of valuable practical information, from authentic sources, and couched in handsome language, than *fifty* filled up with unintelligible jargon, and but occasionally an article of value:—it is more pleasant to walk through a cultivated garden, than to be obliged to wade as we now do through miles of mud, for here and there a spot of verdure. We would suggest, therefore, to such as propose new medical journals, purely for the good of science to relinquish their designs, and throw the weight of their valuable materials into the *Medical Intelligencer*, or into other works which, like our own, are well established and have an extended and still extending circulation.

ON THE DETECTION OF ARSENIC BY LIME WATER.

The paper from which the following extracts are made, is by M. Aug. Ludw. Giseke, and has been published in Schweigger's Journal. We are induced to notice a part of it in consequence of the importance which attaches to any circumstance affecting the indications of arsenical

tests. The following process for the detection of arsenic in cases of poisoning, is the joint production of Rose and Berzelius:—‘Cut up the coats of the stomach, and place them in the liquid, which is boiled with a few drachms of caustic-potash, in order to dissolve any arsenious acid that might be contained it. The solution obtained is filtered, heated till it boils, and during the boiling mixed with nitric acid, which is added in small portions as long as any thing separates, and till the liquid has become strongly acid, clear, and of a bright yellow colour; it is filtered while hot: afterwards nearly, not completely, saturated with carbonate of potash, and made to boil, in order to expel the carbonic acid; then it is boiled with clear lime-water as long as any precipitate is formed; the lime-water first saturates the excess of acid, and then precipitates with the arsenious acid as arsenite of lime, and with the phosphoric acid and other animal substances decomposed in the nitric acid. If, instead of saturating the acid with lime-water, you add first caustic alkali till the liquid becomes alkaline and then add lime-water, no precipitate will be formed, because the arsenite of lime is held in solution by the alkali.’

This statement of the solubility of the arsenite of lime in a solution of alkali, being in contradiction with certain facts, M. Schweigger was induced to examine the circumstances more minutely, and was ultimately led to the following explanatory experiment:—Prepare an arsenical liquid, pour it into three glasses, and add to one portion an excess of caustic-potash; to the second, excess of caustic-soda; and to the third, excess of caustic-ammonia. On adding lime-water, a deposite of arsenite of lime will be formed equally in each of the glasses. Now add to each a few drops of acid, (for instance, nitric acid) yet so that in all the alkali shall predominate; whilst no solution of

the precipitate will take place in the glasses that have the potash and soda in them, it will immediately begin in that with the ammonia; and all the arsenite of lime will be finally dissolved, although the ammonia be not saturated by the acid which has been added. Of course, the solution will take place in the three glasses when any acid is in excess; yet, on saturating the acid with alkali, the precipitate will be re-formed immediately in those glasses that contain the potash or soda, but not in that which holds the ammonia, however one may neutralize the liquid.

By putting muriate or nitrate of ammonia into a liquid containing arsenic, and adding lime-water in any quantity, no precipitate will be formed, even though heat be applied. Thus it will be seen, that it is not the ammonia, as *caustic alkali*, which retains the arsenite of lime in solution, but it is the presence of a soluble salt of ammonia, which prevents the formation of the deposit; and if, instead of ammonia, caustic potash or soda be used in the process described by Berzelius, then lime-water will instantly form the precipitate of arsenite of lime.—*Phil. Mag.* lxvi. 253.

THE BLACK SPIDER—(*araneus niger* *List. Hist.* 77, *Schrod.* 5, 337) was formerly officinal, and much celebrated for its febrifuge virtues. Wrapped in leather, and hung about the arm, it was supposed to be capable of averting the fit of a quartan, and when boiled in oil and instilled into the ears, of easing pain in those parts. *Dioscor. Lib.* 2, *cap.* 68.—The country people, with whom the dicta of physicians are handed down by tradition, believe that a small quantity of spider’s web, given about an hour before the expected return of an ague, and repeated in half an hour, will prevent its recurrence. The Indians in North America are said to employ spiders and their webs in the same way, and, *a priori*, there is no reason why the former, at least, should not possess medicinal properties as well as cantharis; whether they do is another question.

UNSUCCESSFUL CASE OF TRANSFUSION.—On Saturday last, Mr Doubleday, of Surrey-street, performed the operation of transfusion, in a case of uterine hæmorrhage. It proved unsuccessful, but we understand there were some circumstances connected with the case which rendered it peculiarly unfavorable to the operation: the result, therefore, does not militate against the propriety of transfusion. Much valuable time was lost previous to Mr Doubleday's being sent for; and at the time the blood was injected, the woman was quite insensible and cold. We understand Dr Blundell has recommended that no more cases of transfusion should be made public, until a complete body of evidence upon the subject has been obtained; but, with all due respect to Dr Blundell, we think his recommendation a bad one, for if the operation be valuable, as we have good reason to believe it is, the sooner facts substantiating it are laid before the public, the better. If, on the contrary, the operation of transfusion be injurious, the medical world cannot be apprised at too early a period of its inexpediency.—*London Lancet.*

CURE FOR THE YELLOW FEVER.—A correspondent says, perhaps it is not generally known that an infallible cure for the yellow fever has recently been discovered at Havana.—A respectable sea captain informs him that an Englishman, named Nichols, has built within a few miles of Havana, a spacious hospital for the reception of those who are afflicted with this distressing malady. As soon as a person is attacked, he is conveyed to the hospital, and put under the care of attending physicians, (some of whom are Americans,) who immediately apply ice to all parts of the body, and continue the application until the fever is destroyed, (which is generally in a few days,) and the patient convalescent.—*Newburyport paper.*

APPOINTMENTS TO THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS IN NEW YORK.—John Watts, M. D. President, and Jonas Platt, Esq. V. President. John A. Smith, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology; James F. Dana, M. D. Professor of Chemistry; John B. Beck, M. D. Professor of Botany and Materia Medica; Alex. H. Stevens, M. D. Professor of Surgery: Edw. Delafield, M. D. Professor of Obstetrics, &c; Jos. M. Smith, M. D. Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.

HYGROMETRIC PROPERTY OF SULPHURIC ACID.—The quantity of water that sulphuric acid sp. gr. 1.840 is capable of

absorbing from an atmosphere saturated with vapour, has lately been determined by exposure of 50 grains of acid of the above strength to such an atmosphere. In the course of four months, it gained 423.2 grains of water, considerably more than eight times its original weight, its sp. gr. being diminished to 1.0706.—T. G. —*Phil. Mag.*

VOLATILE OIL OF CUBEBS.—We are informed by Mr Battley that, upon a recent examination of cubebs, he found an extremely volatile oil, in the proportion of one ounce and a quarter to the pound. In this oil he apprehends the virtue of the drug to reside,—and if so, the great uncertainty of its effects on disease may be readily accounted for by the supposition that, in many instances, the medicine, when administered, has contained the oil, while, in many other instances, the oil may have escaped. If the virtue of the substance should be found to reside in the oil, we apprehend this discovery will be a very important one, as we shall then have a remedy for gonorrhœa in as small a compass as we have for ague in arsenic or quinine.—We advise trials to be immediately made with the oil.—*Medico-Chirurgical Review.*

SMALL-POX.—According to the report of the proceedings of the London Vaccine Institution, the number who fell victims to the small-pox, the last year, within the bills of mortality only, was 1299.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Accidental, 1—Brain Fever, 1—Consumption, 6—Canker Rash, 1—Cholera Infantum, 1—Cholera Morbus, 1—Diarrhoea, 1—Debility, 1—Fits, 1—lung Fever, 1—Old Age, 1—Pleurisy, 1—Typhus Fever, 1—Sudden, 1—Spasms, 1—Venereal, 1—Dysentery, 1—Stillborn, 3.

Medicines, Surgical Instruments, &c.

BARTLETT & BREWER, at the sign of the *Good Samaritan*, No. 92, Washington-Street (late 13, Cornhill), have received by the London and Havre packets, and other late arrivals, a fresh supply of *Drugs, Medicines, Surgical Instruments, and Chemicals*: Among them are Blue Pill, Calomel, Tartar Emetic and Calcined Magnesia, from Apoth. Hall, London: Iodine; Elaterium; Croton Oil; Hydriodate of Potash; Sulph. Quinine; Cheltenham Salts; Colchicum Root and Seeds; Henry's Magnesia.

Amputating, Trepanning, Couching, Midwifery and Dental Instruments; Pock-

et Cases and separate Instruments ; Fre-num and Hare-lip Scissors ; Extracting and Forcing Probangs ; Anatomical Syringes ; Laundy's Splints ; Carved, Lancet and Triangular Pointed Trocars ; Silver Syringes and Stilets for Fist. Lachrymalis.

Gum Elastic Catheters, Bougies, Pessaries, Suppositories, Urinals, Clyster Pipes, Tubes for Extracting Poison from the Stomach, Resuscitating Tubes, Nipple Shields, Caustic Plasters, and Syringes.

Also, kept constantly on hand, a large supply of Stone's much approved Patent Spring Pad Trusses, with an extensive assortment of articles in their line, which they will sell on the most reasonable terms.

MECKEL'S MANUAL.

PROPOSALS for publishing by Subscription a Manual of General, Descriptive, and Pathological Anatomy, by J. F. MECKEL, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Halle. Translated from the German, with additions, by A. J. L. JOURDAN and G. BRESCHET, members of the Royal Academy of Medicine at Paris, &c. Translated from the French, by G. BRADFORD, M. D.

Advertisement of the French Editors.

A work has long been desired, which should comprise all the important facts in the sciences of general, descriptive, and pathological Anatomy and Physiology. Such a work required an acquaintance with these sciences equally extensive and profound, and could not have been executed except by one of the first anatomists of the age. M. Meckel, who so worthily sustains the hereditary medical celebrity of his family, and to whom we are indebted for many other works of the first order, has not feared to undertake a work of such magnitude. His treatise of Anatomy, regarded as a classic in Germany, cannot but be received with equal favour in our own country. It is one of the most valuable productions of the school of Bichat,—of that Bichat, who has made France the envy of Europe, and to whom M. Meckel renders the noblest tribute, that talents can pay to genius, the tribute of admiration, without enthusiasm. We have endeavoured to add to the translation of the Manual every fact, with which the science has been enriched since its publication.

Paris, 1825.

The subscriber has been encouraged to undertake the translation of Professor

Meckel's Manual, by the advice of gentlemen of eminence in the profession, by the celebrity which this Manual has obtained in Europe, and by the consideration that the want of such a work must be continually felt by every scientific member of the profession in this country, and that there is none of the kind now existing in the English language.

G. BRADFORD.

The medical literature of this country appears to want an accurate work on anatomy, which comprehends the observations and improvements of late years. In the French language, the productions of Boyer and Bichat are to be considered admirable examples of exact description. The habits and taste of this country require a work differing from these, in its combining with anatomy an account of the uses and the diseased changes of the parts described. Such a labour has been executed in Germany, by Meckel of illustrious name, and this has been lately adopted into the French language, by Messrs. Jourdan and Breschet. With these recommendations in its favour, and combining with them, as it does, the excellent qualities of the treatises of Soemmering, Boyer, Bichat, Portal, and the best English authors, a translation of the "Manual of Anatomy" of Meckel would be a very desirable, and, I doubt not, a very successful publication.

JOHN C. WARREN.

Boston, June, 1826.

Extract from a notice of the French edition of Meckel, contained in the Medico-Chirurgical Review, for July, 1825.

"This is the best work on Anatomy ever published.—Here would be an excellent book to translate."

CONDITIONS.

The translation will be printed on a new type and good paper, in three volumes, octavo, of from 600 to 650 pages each. The price to subscribers will be \$2,50 a volume, payable on delivery.

Should the subscription authorize it, the work will be put to press by the first of August, and published in the course of the ensuing winter.

Cambridge, June 1, 1826.

Subscription papers are left at the Bookstores of Messrs. Cummings, Hilliard & Co. and H. Gray, Boston, and William Hilliard, Cambridge, where gentlemen disposed to patronize the work are requested to forward their names.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 1826.

NO. 10.

IODINE IN MALIGNANT CANCER.

BY G. N. HILL, SURGEON, CHESTER, ENG.

The subsequent detail has no higher claims on the public attention, than that of affording another proof of the powerful effects of iodine on the human glandular system, and that it is a new remedy from the poisonous class meriting farther and closer attention than it appears yet to have received. Three or four notices have appeared in the periodical publications from respectable writers on the subject, of the very powerful effects of iodine on the female breast. By a free and constant use of the remedy, complete absorption of the whole organ has ensued, so as to leave scarcely the vestige even of a nipple. The last account I have seen of this kind, will be found in the Med. and Phys. Journal for May last, p. 437, by Hufeland. Subsequently one of the foreign journals reports, that Dr Edward Graafe prescribed an ungt. containing 3*i.* of the hydroid. potass. to 3*ij.* of pure lard, from which the like effects followed.

December 20, 1822.—I was requested to examine the right breast of a widow, aged 62, of a shattered constitution, having led a laborious life, and been the mother of ten children, exclusive of abortions. The breast presented a large, hollow, fetid ulcer, with ragged, thickened, hard edges; the subjacent ribs bare, but not denuded of their *periosteum*. Her general health was deranged, appetite bad, with frequent cough; her situation in life in every respect unfavourable. I directed a carrot poultice to be applied, and renewed eve-

ry five or six hours: medicines to be taken to regulate the bowels; and when the evacuations assumed a tolerably healthy appearance, the Fowlerian solution was commenced; and happening to agree with the stomach (by which expression I mean to be understood that this organ admitted of its use being pushed to 15 drops twice and thrice per diem,) in two months, amendment was visible. Her general health was improved. The ulcer became less offensive. A weak mixture of the solution and pure water was applied with lint, and over that the carrot cataplasm. In short, at the end of eight months, the general health was so improved, and the appearance of the ulcer such as to justify the trial of Mr Young's mode of cure by compression. Just at this juncture, an accidental visitor from London was at my house, who had been successfully treated by this method. She spoke highly of it, said her breast had been condemned to be removed by some eminent surgeon; but as she was unwilling to suffer the operation, she applied to Mr Y., and was now free from every vestige of the disease. Having procured the apparatus recommended by Mr Y., it was applied conformably to the rules laid down by that gentleman, with steady diligence, and borne with equal patience, until, in the course of three months, the edges of the sore assumed the appearance of cicatrization; but the whole surrounding parts, and particularly the axillary glands, became so painful, and a provoking discolouration in the centre of the ulcer (from which spot she described the pain as all emanating,) compelled us to lay

aside the pressure apparatus as incompatible in this case. The unhealthy spot at the fundus of the ulcer now rapidly enlarged, and threw out a large tubercle of a livid appearance. This diminished and looked better under the use of the *sulphas cupri*. The surrounding parts were dressed with the *pulv. cretae ppt.* according to Mr Kentish's mode; the cinchona and opium were administered; and, at the close of the first year of my attendance, the ulcer had assumed a favourable aspect. Spots of new cicatrization were once more visible, but their next door neighbours were the hard ill-looking tubercles, soon accompanied by incurvated edges, and a general tendency to bleed from small nipple-like eminences of the fungoid kind. Dry lint imbued with flour and *sp. tereb.* generally succeeded in stopping the blood. The bolar earth with alum never failed. The longest diameter of the ulcer now measured six inches; the general health still good, a little cough excepted. Thus we went on to the end of a second year, without gaining or losing much ground, except that the insulated spots of cicatrization which had appeared under the use of the chalk were no longer visible; the discharge from the whole corroded surface was copious and gleety.

At this juncture, having put to the test every local application and internal remedy I could think of, the powerful effects of iodine were suggested to me by a very ingenious friend and chemical artist of this city, as worthy of trial in all desperate cases of tumor and vitiated ulcer; I gladly caught at the hint, and applied an unguent consisting of $\frac{3}{i}$. of the hydriodate to $\frac{3}{i}$. of the purest *axung. porcin.*; this was the dressing twice a day; it not only gave no pain, but, as my patient observed, "felt comfortable." In a few days, the quantity of discharge was diminished, and its quality improved, the whole sur-

face of the sore assuming a kindlier aspect; the ill-coloured tubercles softened and gradually sloughed away, recalling to mind the applications of our forefathers, designated detergents. In a few weeks, the whole surface wore the most flattering appearance possible. Any surgeon whose eye had then been directed to this poor sufferer's breast, would have said, "Here we have a state of fine healthy granulation;" in truth nothing could look better, or afford a more healthy discharge; all the surrounding hardness was softened and ultimately removed, as though there never had existed any breast. The left breast underwent a similar process; there is not the vestige of a nipple even to be found, (more than a minute brown spot) on the closest inspection.

Soon after commencing the use of the *ungt. hydroid.* the solution was administered in the proportion of 36 grains to the ounce of *aq. distil.* Her stomach bore thirty drops easily, but beyond this she could not advance without nausea; the lancinating pains and occasional bleeding of the breast entirely ceased; the evening dose of opium was dismissed. After pursuing this plan for four months, all the inferior portion of the ulcer was entirely cicatrized. This process taking place from below upwards, in the course of another month a patch of lint the size of a sixpence would cover the uncicatrized part. Above this, at the top, there remained a hard ridge, not half an inch long, resembling the edge of a child's little finger, quite dry, painless, and of a bright red colour. I directed this to be rubbed with the *ungt. hydroid.* twice daily, the solution to be continued; and so sanguine were my hopes now become that my poor patient would ultimately obtain a perfect cure! (*cure of cancer!*) that I cannot find language to express my feelings; but these feelings will be well comprehended by all who are enthusiasts

in their profession, by all who love their species, and by all who are daily witnesses of the sufferings of human nature under all the varied forms of cancer.

I now saw Mrs S. only once a week, and expected to find the remaining hard edge of the old ulcer becoming softer, and yielding to the fate of all its predecessors, viz. to soften, to ulcerate, to slough away, and, like them, leave a smooth shining surface adherent to the costæ; but this anticipated happiness was destined to share the common fate. The little stubborn ridge did not yield to the rubbing with the ointment, now increased threefold in strength, but enlarged; became of a purple hue, divided into tubercles, contaminated a gland or two in the axilla; fretted edges, incurvation, gleety discharge and re-opening of the fixed cicatrix soon followed, so that in two little months the size and general appearance of the ulcer had resumed its original greatest dimensions, the emaciation recommenced its career, the countenance betrayed the existence of cancerous diathesis, and in short, nothing now can be expected but that termination to dreadful suffering which so many thousands have experienced. This narration, so calculated to exercise the reader's patience, is given with a view to exhibit the effects of iodine in a case hopeless, when it was first employed. What it is capable of effecting when called into service in the earliest stages of foul, malignant, or cancerous ulcer, remains to be proved by successive trials. That it is an agent of great power and manageable qualities, I think cannot be doubted.

CHEMICAL EXPERIMENTS ON MORPHINE.

Chemists have not hitherto been able to obtain morphine in the state in which it exists in opium, since opium is entirely dissolved in water, while

pure morphine is nearly insoluble. For this reason morphine has been introduced into the *materia medica* in a state of combination with an acid, such as the acetic, sulphuric acid, &c; hence the names of acetate of morphine, sulphate of morphine, &c.

It would be very important, therefore, to succeed in separating morphine from opium, without completely isolating it—without depriving it of the power of being dissolved, which it possesses in the natural state of the medicine. A memoir, lately published by M. Robinet, seemed to have solved the difficulty. This chemist, knowing the property which solutions of the neutral salts possess of dissolving certain substances, to the exclusion of other matter more or less solid, in pure water, employed a solution of the hydrochlorate of soda, and after many experiments thought he had obtained the natural salt of morphine.

After having ascertained that the morphine was not combined, in this case, either with the meconic, hydrocyanic, or gallic acid, he suffered it to be salified by a particular acid, which he designated the codeic acid. Ress, Orfila, Ollivier, and d'Angers, have made experiments on this supposed codeate of morphine, tending to prove, that in a large dose it poisons in the same way as the acetate, and that in a small dose it is somewhat more sedative. Fresh experiments, however, and a more accurate chemical analysis, have shown that the saline combination is nothing but a muriate produced by the muriatic acid employed in its preparation.

The experiments of M. Robinet, though the direct object of them has not been accomplished, have been attended with some curious and important results. He has discovered that morphine, and the salts of morphine, with the muriate of iron highly oxidated, produce a deep blue colour, exactly resembling that produ-

ced by a hydrocyanate, and, what is very singular, this effect is owing exclusively to the morphine. Some particles of morphine, wetted with a drop of the solution of peroxidized iron, produce immediately this blue colour; but if a few drops of any acid, though greatly diluted, be added, the colour disappears. Acetic æther and alcohol produce the same effect; but not sulphuric æther, unless some portion of alcohol remains. The presence of the alkali seems to favour the production of the blue colour.

Powdered morphine, mixed in a very weak solution of muriate of iron, gives it a blue colour, is dissolved, and at the end of some days, precipitates a certain quantity of yellow oxide of iron. These characters prove sufficiently that the colour produced by the morphine is not to be confounded with that produced by the hydrocyanates under the same circumstances. Quinine, cinchonine, strichnine, and brucine, exhibit no such phenomena.

The memoir of M. Robinet contains many other details, interesting in a chemical point of view, but less immediately connected with the objects of this journal. The results of the above experiments are not only curious, as exhibiting a new property of morphine, but may be of practical importance in medical jurisprudence.—*Gazette de Santé.*

COLLECTIONS OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

*Case of Paralysis of the Facial Nerve,
by R. D. MUSSEY, M. D., Professor
of Anatomy and Surgery in Dart-
mouth College.*

The experiments and discoveries of Messrs Magendie, Bell, and Shaw, have given a new interest to the study of the nerves and their diseases. The *portio dura*, or facial nerve, is well known to be freely distributed upon those muscles of the face, which are concerned in the expres-

sion of the emotions and passions. With great propriety this nerve may be denominated the *nerve of expression*; for when its function is arrested, the muscles of expression cease to obey the will. The property of sensibility belonging to these muscles, seems to be conferred on them by branches from the fifth nerve. If the facial nerve has any share of sensibility, it is probably derived from that branch of the fifth, which is associated with it before it emerges from the cavity of the cranium. The properties of sensibility, however, must be very small, as there is no apparent diminution of this property in parts to which it is distributed, when this nerve is divided or paralyzed.

The following case, like some others which have occurred, serves to illustrate the function of this interesting nerve.

Two years ago, Mr K. æt. 40, consulted me for a singular affection on one side of his face, which he said, had existed about two weeks, and which he imagined to have been caused by heat reflected upon his face while at work on the roof of a house in a very hot day; the disorder having made its appearance immediately after.

All the muscles of expression upon one side of the face, except those which move the eye-ball, were beyond the reach of the will, not the slightest motion being given them by an exertion of the power of volition so strong as to throw the other half of the face into the most ludicrous or frightful distortions. The skin of the forehead could not be gathered into wrinkles, the eye was permanently open, the nostril was collapsed, and the mouth drawn a little towards the sound side. The patient closed the eye at night, and opened it in the morning with his thumb and finger. He could not whistle with his mouth, nor articulate labials well, and when excited to

laughter, he instantly hid his face, conscious of his ridiculous appearance. Under this functional derangement, the soft parts on this side of the face had lost nothing of their sensibility,—the slightest touch being as distinctly felt as upon the sound side ; and the muscles of mastication which derive their nervous influence from the fifth pair, were as much under the control of the will as ever.

By the advice of a physician, the patient had washed his face daily in a decoction of oak bark, but without receiving any benefit. I prescribed bloodletting, cathartics, and a blister to the cheek. In a few days, voluntary motion commenced and gradually increased, till, in about three weeks the function of the part was nearly restored ; but even at the present time, as the patient informs me, there is a slight diminution of power in the muscles, especially after exposure to cold and damp air.

Hanover, N. H. July, 12th, 1826.

HAIR-CUTTING.

Stare not, gentle reader, at seeing this word at the head of an article in a medical journal. We have been accused of using terms unintelligible to common readers ; we venture to assert that no such objection can be urged to the term *hair-cutting*. Every body understands its meaning, though most persons are not aware in what way it can affect every body's health.

In a previous volume of our paper, we have spoken of the effects of the hair on the animal spirits ; a word or two at present on the influence it exerts over the body. In hair-cutting, as in every thing else, there is always a fashion at whose shrine health may be easily sacrificed. Once it was customary not only to shorten the hair, but to thin it out, and to the dexterity with which this operation was performed, we looked for the evidence of skill on the part of the artist. For a long series of years this fashion prevailed. The

air was thus allowed access to the head, evaporation went on freely, and the matter of perspiration not being confined, was not compelled to concrete and accumulate around the roots of the hair. This commendable practice no doubt derived its origin from the just and admirable doctrine of one of the Fathers of Medicine who comprised the great rules of hygiene in these three—**KEEP THE FEET WARM, THE BOWELS OPEN, AND THE HEAD COOL.** These wonderfully comprehensive and salutary directions were followed implicitly until our own day ; but we, in the phrenzy of fashion, have fallen from the faith of our fathers. Instead of the thick-soled shoes and home-knit stockings of former times, silk and prunella are the only protection allowed to the feet. Ice creams and cognac are a sore deviation from the second and not the least important of the rules, and to complete our apostacy the hair dresser has entirely abandoned the small scissors, and it is the universal fashion to have the hair as *thick* as it will grow. It is frequently shortened only to make it grow the thicker, and the macassar oil and many other such nostrums find a ready sale for the purpose of effecting the same object.

By this mode of dressing the hair, it must be evident to every one that a degree of heat is maintained in the head which is unsavourable to health. The matter of perspiration concretes around and fills up the pores, and the cooling effects of a free evaporation of the secreted fluids are entirely lost. Add to this the uncleanliness of the practice and the manifest disadvantage which must result from any occasional exposure, and which might have been prevented by keeping the head habitually cool, and no observing or sensible man can be induced to submit to the present style of hair-cutting. We would gladly say more on this subject if we thought by so doing we could restore the good old practice of *thinning out* the hair : but our readers will be led, by what we have already remarked, to

reflect seriously on this subject, and if each one exerts his individual influence, we may hope ere long to close up this avenue to disease.

SCROFULA.

It is said that by adding a drachm of cream of sulphur to two ounces of pitch ointment, we can make an effectual local application in cases of scrofula. We have never tried this remedy, but should think it might be useful, in combination with the internal use of iodine or iron.

LEPROSY.

Tar and cream simmered together form a useful local application in this disease. Tar water should be drunk freely, and perseverance enjoined.

CASE OF IRREGULAR ORIGIN AND COURSE OF THE RIGHT SUBCLAVIAN ARTERY AND RIGHT INFERIOR LARYNGEAL NERVE; WITH REMARKS. BY JOHN HART, SURG. DUBLIN.

Early in the present winter, an old female subject was brought into the dissecting rooms of the New-School, Park-street, in which I discovered that the right subclavian artery arose from the aorta direct. It came off from the extreme left part of the arch, after the origin of the subclavian, at the left side of the body of the second dorsal vertebra. It then crossed the spine obliquely, behind the thoracic duct and œsophagus, and, coming out on the right side in front of the first dorsal vertebra, ran across the apex of the pleura, and reached the place it is usually found to occupy on the upper surface of the first rib, between the *scaleni* muscles.

The situation of the *innominata* was occupied by the right carotid, which, coming immediately from the aorta, ascended directly in front of the trachea, nearly as high as the lower border of the thyroid gland, before it took up its usual lateral position in the neck, being thus in danger of the edge of the knife in tracheotomy.

The *nervus vagus* of the right side, in entering the thorax, crossed the subclavian artery without giving off the recurrent nerve in the usual manner. The office of this nerve, however, was performed by several branches arising from the inner side of the trunk of the *nervus vagus*, the highest of which, being the largest, separated from the trunk opposite the cricoid cartilage, crossed inwards behind the carotid artery imbedded in its sheath, and, getting under the edge of the inferior constrictor of the pharynx, became, by its distribution, the inferior laryngeal nerve. The branches below this were much smaller, and supplied the thyroid gland, trachea and œsophagus. These also crossed behind the carotid; but the branches which go to join the cardiac nerves were given off together at the lower part of the neck, and got in front of the arch of the aorta, in their course to the cardiac plexus.

As gestation advances, the head becomes more distinct, and the neck begins to be formed after the second month, which, as it lengthens, has the effect of removing the brain upwards to a greater distance, and of drawing out the larynx from the chest, in accommodation to which the nerves of the *par vagum* and their recurrents become elongated, and hence the circuitous route the latter are found to take afterwards, forming loops in which the aorta and subclavian are, as it were, suspended.

Somewhat analogous to this elongation, is that which the spermatic vessels undergo, which, having been derived from the source most convenient to the original situation of the testicle below the kidney, are drawn out and lengthened in proportion as this organ descends through the abdominal rings to occupy its place in the scrotum.

Had not the great blood-vessels been originally thus interposed between the brain and larynx, the inferior laryngeal nerves would not

have been entangled by them, and we should find them in the adult taking the nearest route to their destination. Such in fact was found to be the case, on the right side, in the present instance, as well as in the case of Dr Stedman, in both of which the right subclavian artery had lain behind the trachea and oesophagus; and I will venture to assert, that every case in which this vessel is so circumstanced, will present an example of the same kind of accompanying deviation from its ordinary course, in the inferior laryngeal nerve of the same side.

A knowledge of this occasional variety should teach the surgeon to beware in exposing the right carotid for the purpose of tying it, above the crossing of the omohyoid muscle, lest, in drawing the *nervus vagus* outwards with the internal jugular vein, as usually directed, and separating the artery from the back part of its sheath, the inferior laryngeal nerve having taken the irregular course above described, should happen to be cut across.

Such an occurrence, we are led to infer, from the experiments of M. Majendie, would affect the functions of the larynx to a serious extent.

HYDROPHOBIA.—This *opprobrium medorum*, has become at Lyons, a mere bagatelle, and has completely lost its terrific character by nipping it in the bud. It appears that about a year ago, a man was bitten by a dog who afterwards died raving mad; but that his wife without delay extracted the poison by sucking the wound: this was afterwards repeated at the request of the physician, and no hydrophobia supervened in either. She afterwards went by the name of *La Chien Suc*, and her example was this year followed by three women who go by the same name, and whose business it has been during the hot months to suck the wounds of all who were bitten by any mad animal. Ten francs is their charge for the first sucking, and five for every succeeding one. Of 38 cases which occurred since the 1st of June, not one terminated fatally nor even experienced the symptoms of hydrophobia, although the

animals were decidedly mad, and died in that state.

STOMACH PUMP.—A servant maid in London, in a fit of jealousy, took a large dose of laudanum.—Various remedies were tried to relieve her, but to no effect. Mr Weiss, of the Strand, was sent for and arrived in a few minutes with one of his stomach pumps the pipe of which was introduced into the stomach, and large quantities of warm water were injected and thrown off by the pump, until it ceased to have any smell of laudanum. The girl had eaten a hearty dinner before taking the laudanum, but owing to Mr Weiss's instrument being made to act without a valve, the solid contents of the stomach were made to pass through without difficulty. The girl was kept constantly in motion, and her head and face wetted with cold water and vinegar. She was left out of danger.

THE SMALL POX—has made its appearance in Glastenbury, Con. Several persons have been attacked, and many persons exposed to the disease. It is said to have been brought by a coloured man from New York.—*Norwich Courier*.

TREACLE POULTICE.—The treacle poultice is simply made of linseed meal, over which is poured some treacle; it is a stimulating application, and in many cases of sloughing sores, it has been of decided benefit.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Brain Fever, 1—Consumption, 4—Complaint of the heart, 1—Canker, 2—Childbed, 1—Dropsy, 2—Dysentery, 1—Fits, 1—Hooping Cough, 1—Infantile, 1—Liver Complaint, 1—Old Age, 2—Typhus Fever, 1—Unknown, 2—Stillborn, 1—Males, 11—Females, 10.

Materia Medica.

THE following are the general outlines of the *Materia Medica* of the United States, which has been written by **WILLIAM ZOLICKOFFER**, M. D. &c. &c. and which will, without any farther delay, be published in the month of September. The cause of its not having emanated from the press last fall, may be attributed to the intention that the author had in view, of enlarging it, in order, if possible, to render it more useful and acceptable. The work alluded to will contain 240 pages, octavo, instead of 180, as was formerly contemplated. It will, therefore, be perceived, that the matter con-

tained therein has been increased in consequence of the delay.

CHAPTER 1. Treats of the improvements of the Materia Medica.—2. Modus Operandi of Medicines.—3. Classification of Medicines.

DIVISION 1—Chapter 4. Treats of Narcotics.—5. Antispasmodics.—6. Tonics.—7. Astringents. The four last chapters are included in the first division of general stimulants.

DIVISION 2—Chapter 8. Treats of Emetics.—9. Cathartics.—10. Emmenagogues.—11. Diuretics.—12. Diaphoretics.—13. Expectorants.—14. Sialagogues.—15. Errhines.—16. Epispastics.—17. Escharotics. The chapters included in the second division are such as treat of local stimulants.

DIVISION 3—Chapter 18. Treats of Refrigerents. The articles that are introduced in this division belong to the chemical remedies,

DIVISION 4—Chapter 19. Treats of Demulcents—20. Anthelmintics. These two last belong to the mechanical remedies. The classes of Antacids, Lithontriptics, Diluents, and Emollients, have been omitted, from the circumstance of their not being materials that properly belong to these classes.

The price of the work will be *two dollars.*

DR. A. G. HULL'S PATENT HINGE TRUSS.

THE great desideratum in all improvements of mechanical instruments, is to make a paramount combination of simplicity of structure and facility of effect.

The Patentee respectfully invites the attention of all persons versed in the surgical anatomy of the parts concerned, to the following exposition of the distinctive merits of the Truss.

Firstly. The concave internal surface of the rupture pad; from its pressure being greatest at the circumference, tends constantly to approximate the hernial parietes, affording them rest and mechanical support.

Secondly. The combined hinge and pivot mode of connection between the *spring* and *pad*, by means of a tenon and mortice so constructed as to preserve a double hinge and limited joint, acting in every direction, thereby securing the uniform pressure of the spring on the pad, and sustaining the same nice coaptation of the pad and rupture opening, as well under the varied ordinary desultory muscular

actions, as when the body is in a recumbent posture.

Thirdly.—The graduating power and fixture of the pad to the spring, rendering, as will be readily perceived, the position of the pad perfectly controllable, even to perfect minuteness. Also resulting from this mechanism, is the advantage of accommodating a large truss to a small person: hence the *facility of supplying without disappointment, persons at a great distance.*

Fourthly.—The Double Inguinal Truss; being simply the addition of another pad, attached to a short elastic metallic plate; this plate with its pad moves on the main spring by the same power of adjustment and fixture as the first pad, the pressure of the pads being graduated at pleasure by an intervening cork wedge.

Thus, dismissing all the complicated mechanism of straps, belts and spiral springs hitherto used, and but too often ineffectually used, is this distressing class of hernia managed with the same ease and certainty of success as the single rupture!

In the investigation of the virtues of this instrument, it is with the utmost assurance that we advert to several years successful experiment, the only true basis for assertion:—

And hence the Patentee hesitates not to affirm, that, in combining its qualities, such advantage has been taken of mechanical principles, as to leave neither necessity nor possibility of improvement. Late accounts from professional men, as well as my numerous agents, together with my own experience, warrant the highly interesting and auspicious conclusion, that the complete cures which are effected on persons from 40 to 75 years of age—may with safety be computed at an average of 1 in 3
—AND UNIVERSALLY ON CHILDREN!

The Patentee is truly gratified that the success of his Truss has given them an introduction to the navy and army of the United States. The approval and recommendation to general use by the Medical Societies of the state of New York, and by many of the most respectable Medical Institutions, as well as medical practitioners in this and most other states, should be sufficient.

The above Truss is sold by EBENEZER WIGHT, Druggist, Milk, opposite Federal Street—where may be had a general assortment of genuine Drugs and Medicines.

Boston, July 25th.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1826.

NO. 11.

STRUMOUS OPHTHALMIA.

Treatment.—The treatment of strumous ophthalmia must be principally directed to removing that unhealthy condition of the digestive organs and skin, which is so prominent a feature in the complaint, and consequently to invigorate the constitution. Unless these objects can be accomplished, means applied to the eye will be of no service. Hence the treatment is more general than local. In the first place the state of the alimentary canal must be attended to. This is generally in such a condition, as to require the use of purgatives; and those of a very active kind are often necessary, even in young children. You may begin by giving an active dose of calomel with jalap or rhubarb, or calomel followed by castor-oil, and it may be necessary to repeat these purgatives two or three times, to be satisfied that the canal is completely freed from the accumulated load of ill-digested food and unhealthy secretions. The administration of two or three such doses often produces the greatest relief to the sufferings of the child. When this has been accomplished, a mild course of alterative and aperient medicines will be useful; such as calomel and rhubarb in small doses, every second or third day, or the hydrarg. c. creta with magnesia or rhubarb, or calomel with antimony. After the bowels have been evacuated, it is often advantageous to combine light tonics with the aperients; bark or columba may be given with rhubarb, two or three times in the day; the extract of bark may be used. The dilute sulphuric acid is a good tonic in these cases;

ten to thirty drops may be given three times a day, in water or infusion of roses sweetened with a little sugar. Steel has an excellent effect in pallid and languid subjects; the tincturi ferri ammoniati, and the vinum ferri are the most convenient forms; the latter may be combined with the dilute sulphuric acid. Alterative medicines should be continued at the same time, and a few grains of hydrargyrus c. creta will very well answer the purpose; some rhubarb may be added, when the bowels require it.

In cases of this kind, the regulation of diet is very necessary, both as regards the quantity and quality of the food; the number of times in the day in which food should be given, must also be attended to. Children of strumous habit should by no means be condemned to low or vegetable diet; they should have plain, but wholesome and nutritious food, such as meat, milk, eggs, bread, and other farinaceous substances. It will be sufficient to take meat once a day; but if febrile excitement or much irritability exists, or if the tongue is foul and the breath offensive, it should be omitted. When strength is restored, if there is disposition to fulness of habit, meat should be allowed only sparingly, or even entirely omitted. Porter or wine should be allowed only where there are obvious signs of debility, and here they may supersede medical cordials and tonics. Patients should not be permitted to take food in the intervals of meals; and it is particularly necessary to attend to this point in the numerous instances where there is unnatural craving for food.

The condition of the skin should be particularly attended to; the warm bath has a powerful effect in strengthening the cutaneous circulation, and the increased determination to the capillaries of the skin relieves the affected parts. If warm bathing cannot be easily procured, let the surface be washed daily with warm water, with the occasional addition of soap, and then well dried by rubbing with a towel; common salt may be added to the water thus used, to bring it to the strength of sea water. When the strength is in some degree restored, the shower or cold bath may be used. The clothing should be warm, particularly in cold weather. It is absurd to expose weak and delicate children to the cold, as is commonly done, under the idea of invigorating them. Some of these naturally feeble beings must be treated like exotic plants; we must keep the latter in hot houses, if we wish to save them, and not expose them to all the vicissitudes of our atmosphere. I do not mean to say that they should never be exposed to the air, quite the contrary; but that they should not be so exposed, except when properly protected by suitable clothing; under this restriction air and exercise should never be lost sight of. Here it may be necessary to consider how far the air of the sea may be beneficial to strumous children. Undoubtedly the influence of the air on the sea coast during the mild seasons of the year is very advantageous to such constitutions. But there is an objection arising from the intolerance of light, which accompanies strumous ophthalmia, and from the morbid susceptibility, which often continues after the other symptoms are at an end. The glare of light from the water and the sand is very offensive to the eyes so long as this unnatural sensibility continues; consequently a healthy inland situation is preferable to the coast under these circumstances. When, however, this particular source of

inconvenience is gone by, there can be no doubt that the air of the sea is very advantageous.

When the constitutional disturbance is considerable, and the local disease active,—when the changes of structure already described are going on in the cornea, and that part is becoming vascular and opaque, you must have recourse to mercury, and that pretty decidedly, after you have thoroughly evacuated the bowels. Calomel combined with James' or Dover's powder will answer the purpose; a grain of the former may be combined with two grains of either of the latter, and given once, twice, or thrice a day. The hydrargyrus cum creta may be employed in the dose of four or five grains. These means must be repeated and continued according to circumstances; they must be persevered in until the disorganizing processes are checked, which is generally accomplished in children without the affection of the mouth.

With respect to local means, the first point is to decide how far it is right to abstract blood. Leeches must be applied sparingly in these cases. You must particularly guard against the error of supposing that leeches are necessary in proportion to the intolerance of light; for it is found by experience the depletion rather increases the debility of the organ, which is again lessened by tonics and a generous and nutritious diet. In cases which partake of the nature of common inflammation, and where there is much external redness with the other symptoms, leeches are proper; but I seldom use them until after the exhibition of an active purge. They are also to be used in conjunction with the internal means already mentioned, when disorganizing inflammation is going on in the cornea. I believe that the best local application is warm water, or poppy fomentation. As regards the intolerance of light, that may be often relieved by a fomentation of a

strong decoction of poppies and chamomile flowers; a bit of soft flannel wrung out of this fluid and applied to the eye as warm as it can be borne is frequently very comfortable to the feelings of the patient. It is doubtful whether the intolerance of light and spasm of the lids can be relieved by the local employment of opium. I rely on the internal and general measures already described. If you should be disposed to use opium, you will find Mr Battley's liquor opii sedativus the best form. Half a drachm or a drachm may be added to an ounce of rose water for a wash, to be used tepid. Two or three drops may be allowed to pass between the lids.

Blisters, after the necessary evacuations, are very serviceable in cases of strumous ophthalmia; they will often give decided relief to the photophobia, or the intolerance of light; they should be applied to the back of the neck, or behind the ears. It is necessary to be cautious in the use of blisters, especially in young subjects. I have often seen them irritate the skin of children very much, and I may mention that I have seen severe inflammation and ulceration produced by them, and even fatal mortification. I never think of applying blisters until the bowels have been well cleared of their contents; and I am not inclined to keep them open. It is a proper precaution to limit their application to six or eight hours; a blister in six hours will generally produce inflammation enough for the purpose. The German writers have recommended the tartar emetic ointment to be rubbed on the temples, behind the ears, or on the back of the neck, especially when change of structure is going on in the cornea. I am more in the habit of making an issue in the temple in such cases. It is one of the most powerful remedies, and produces the most advantageous effects in conjunction with the employment of mercury, in arresting changes of structure

in the organ. The general powers are to be supported under such a treatment, by a nutritious and rather generous diet.

How far can it be advantageous to apply stimulants to the eye in cases of strumous ophthalmia? They have been much employed; and these are the cases in which they have been most strongly recommended. I confess that I have the same doubts respecting their utility in strumous ophthalmia as I have expressed in the treatment of the common form of inflammation. If the nitrate of silver had any power of correcting the morbid irritability of the organ, we should gladly avail ourselves of it in these cases. But I believe that the intolerance of light will be much more effectually and speedily removed by the means I have mentioned, than by any local application. The room should be darkened when the case is severe, and the patient should wear a light green shade. At any rate, you would not think of using local stimuli until the general treatment had been tried, and I believe that will be found to answer the purpose best. If you should meet with any cases in which this treatment should fail, then you may try a weak solution of the nitrate of silver, putting a few drops into the eye two or three times a day. In cases of spreading ulcer and great irritability, you may employ the solution of nitrate of silver, or of the composition I before described, the lapis divinus. The vinum opii is of no service. I can only say, with regard to the great variety of stimulants and astringents that have been recommended, that I have never seen much good done by them. The *crusta lactea*, which is very troublesome to the child, and annoying to the parents and friends, may in general be greatly benefited by the use of the oxyd of zinc lotion; a drachm of the oxyd to an ounce of water is about the proportion in which it is used. The morbid surface should

be well cleaned with tepid water two or three times in the day, and the wash may then be applied to the part. A solution of the corrosive sublimate, a grain to six ounces of water, may be used as a lotion with advantage. No means of this kind should be resorted to, until after the use of purgatives, and when the tongue is clean. A sudden repulsion of the eruption may aggravate the ophthalmic inflammation. Children are often very much disfigured by the incrustations; but there is one consolation, the scales never leave any cicatrices or pits in the skin, and the personal appearance is uninjured even in the worst cases.

Mr Lawrence.

COUNTER-IRRITATION IN INFLAMMATION.

Counter-irritation consists in making a powerful impression on some part of the system, either mind or body; that is to say, the impression may be first made on the *mind*, as the medium of influencing the bodily actions, (as by exciting the *passions* or *emotions* of mind) or directly upon the body itself, by agents foreign to it. Again, the impression may be either made upon the diseased part itself, or upon some other part, according as the treatment is intended to be *local* or *general*. It is the latter that we are at present to consider.

With respect to employing the *mind* as the medium of impression, in order to influence disease, there is ample proof of the power of this to accomplish the purpose. Mental emotion is capable both of preventing, and of curing disease. Strong mental emotion of almost any kind, prevents the operation of *cold* in producing its usual ill effects; and it is probable that it tends to obviate many other occasional causes of disease, though it may likewise, at times, favour their action; as with respect to some *contagions* is believed to be the case. Terror has on various occasions cured epilepsy, as well as ex-

cited it; and a fit of the gout has often been suspended or removed by the same cause, as from an alarm of fire. The milder passion of hope has been observed to have a beneficial influence on some chronic affections, such as sea-scurvy. Notwithstanding, however, that the influence of mental emotions on disease is not to be questioned, it is seldom that we can have recourse to them as remedial agents, from the difficulty there is in regulating their effect. We cannot, so to speak, adjust the dose, so as to render them at once safe and effectual. Cases, however, will frequently occur, in which they may be resorted to with advantage, but which it is difficult here to particularize.

Impression, for the purpose of *counter-irritation*, may be made on different parts of the body, determinable in some measure by the seat of the disease, as well as other circumstances. Some parts are, however, preferable to others. I should enumerate the following as, upon the whole, the best adapted to the purpose;—1, the general sanguiferous system; 2, the stomach; 3, the intestinal canal; and, lastly, the skin.

The whole sanguiferous system may be acted upon by general *stimulants*, so as at times to influence beneficially many cases of inflammation. For this purpose, the essential oils, spices, camphor, ammonia, snake-root, and most other of the class of stimulants, and also the different preparations of antimony, have all long been in extensive use. In the course of the operation of these medicines, where the surface of the body is kept warm, sweating is apt to take place; and hence they have been denominated *sudorifics*, as if this was their chief or sole effect, while the cure of the disease was generally ascribed to their carrying something noxious out of the system. It is not necessary however for us to adopt this notion, nor is it consistent indeed with the present state of physiological knowledge.

Bloodletting itself may be considered as a sort of *counter-irritation* to the general system, the various actions of which it so strongly and speedily influences; and that its good effects are not to be wholly, if at all, ascribed to its weakening the system merely.

The stomach is a part that, on many occasions, may be usefully impressed, as a means of producing *counter-irritation* for the cure of inflammation. It is a part of easy access, very susceptible of impression by various means, and which quickly and powerfully affects by sympathy the rest of the system. These are sufficient reasons for the preference usually given to this organ, in the application of remedies,—to say nothing of their finding their way by this channel into the general circulation, an effect that is probably less frequent than has been supposed.

Medicines may be taken into the stomach, so as to produce either *nausea* or *vomiting*, or both, and often with the effect of beneficially influencing inflammation. Dr Cullen places great reliance upon *nausea* as a remedy for fever and inflammation, and which he advises to be kept up by small and repeated doses of ipecacuanha and antimony. The greatest respect is always due to the practical suggestions of such a man as Dr Cullen, who was seldom mistaken in his observation of facts, and always to be relied upon in his assertions. Of late the Italian physicians have recommended large and frequent doses of *tartarized antimony* for the cure of inflammation, giving as much as six or eight grains at once. By this treatment, as they assert, *bloodletting* may be in a great measure dispensed with, even in the most active forms of inflammation. It is difficult to believe, *prima facie*, that so powerful a medicine as *tartarized antimony* could be safely administered in such enormous doses; and it is my duty to state to you, that in numerous trials purposely made

in this Dispensary, I have almost uniformly found the operation of the medicine to be in proportion to the quantity in which it was administered; so that I have always found myself compelled to desist, when the dose was carried as high as three or four grains. In many instances, repeated doses of a single grain have produced violent and distressing effects. (To be continued.)

For the Medical Intelligencer.

I believe that the use of the *arsenal solution*, (Fowler's) is generally in this country limited to the cure of intermittents. Many authors have recommended it in a variety of cases, yet I seldom hear of its administration except in the above mentioned disease. It is a very powerful medicine and of consequence ought not to be trifled with, or be prescribed by ignorant people; but its great power on the system seems to call upon the faculty to examine its effects with attention, and endeavour, if possible, to render it an instrument to remove some diseases from the list of incurables.

The case of its administration to which I would wish to call the attention of the faculty, is that of low nervous and putrid fevers; and that too in the latter stages of them. I will here briefly state a few cases.

Case 1.—J. C., about 50 years of age, of sanguine temperament, and athletic constitution, had for 15 years drank excessively of ardent spirits. He was taken with inflammatory fever attended with pleurisy; was probably not sufficiently bled in the first stage, or from some other cause, on the seventh day, when I was called, had sunk into a comatose state, attended with a rattling in his throat, complete insensibility, profuse perspiration, and involuntary discharge of the fæces. As I had seen many in a similar situation before, and never saw one recover, I thought it justifiable to make use of an ambiguous remedy. Accordingly I directed

for him six drops of the *Arsenical Solution* every hour, until I should see him again. And to my astonishment, I found him at the end of three hours so completely revived as to be enabled to converse freely and rationally with his family : all the deathly symptoms had disappeared. I continued the solution ten drops every three hours for two days, when he was restored without difficulty by ordinary remedies.

Case 2.—Miss N. A., about 18 years of age, light eyes and hair, of a general healthy appearance, was attacked with a remittent fever (which is very prevalent in this part of the country) which at length became continued and had run three weeks with considerable violence. I found her at the end of the third week perfectly insensible to light and sound, a small quick pulse, with petechial spots in various parts of the body ; besides a large gangrenous one at least five inches long, one and a half wide, and three-fourths deep, which afterwards sloughed off. Her tongue was black ; breath fetid. She had gradually come into this situation. By giving the *solution*, four drops every hour for six hours, she came to her reason. After continuing it for two days, her appetite returned, and the gangrenous parts began to slough off. In a few weeks she perfectly recovered.

The first case happened in April, 1822, and the second in September of the same year. These were the two first cases where I used the *solution*. Since that time more than twenty cases of the same nature have been treated in the same way, and without one exception of ill success.

EZEKIEL HARMON.

Clarkson, N. Y. July 20th, 1826.

CONSUMPTION.

No situation is so fruitful in the production of diseased lungs as a populous city, on the sea coast. This truth cannot be doubted by any one who examines our

bills of mortality. Every other disease is scarcely noticed, with such horror is the eye fixed on the long list of those who have fallen victims to consumption. Naturally enough we look for the causes of this striking feature in our local history.

There are several circumstances connected with a city residence which tend very directly to produce pulmonary disorders. In the first place the air is never so pure, so bracing, so nourishing, if we may so speak, as it always is in the country. It is contaminated by a thousand effluvia, and heated by the reflection of the walls. Breathing habitually such an atmosphere, the lungs become debilitated, and peculiarly subject to disease ; a predisposition to consumption is thus artificially produced, and when the exciting causes of derangement act upon us, this predisposition before any other, is developed.

But in the second place the nature of the great exciting cause of disease, in places whose locality is such as we have spoken of, is more than any other apt to injure the lungs. Far in the interior, there are changes in the air, it is true, but these changes are of a different nature from those we are subject to on the seaboard, neither are they so sudden or so great. From whatever direction the wind may come, it comes over the land, and whether the east wind blows or the west is a matter of indifference to the invalid. So also far upon the ocean, the general temperature and character of the atmosphere is the same from day to day, and from whatever direction the wind comes. But situated as we are—between the two—if the wind changes from west to east, there is scarcely an individual who is not more or less injured by it. From a dry agreeable land breeze we are suddenly enveloped in a cold damp atmosphere. The skin—that extensive and important organ—is immediately and powerfully affected by the change ; the lungs feel it most sensibly, and after being subject to these sudden and shocking changes for a few seasons the constitution is under-

mined, and the lungs, weakened and relaxed, pass easily into a state of ulceration.

In addition to these circumstances, it has been suggested to us, and we think not without reason, that the fine dust constantly rising in a metropolis, and inhaled by every individual, is a source of constant irritation to the lungs, and aids other causes in the production of consumptive diseases. If this is true, and doubtless it is, the new mode of macadamizing our streets will tend to increase the number of those who suffer by pulmonary derangement. The fine, penetrating and sharp edged dust which rises from streets thus prepared, must soon impair the strength and increase the irritability of the respiratory organs, and thus swell that column which is now so heavily laden with the numbers of the dead.

Why then should patients so long linger about our streets when their lungs begin to suffer from morbid irritability. Let them rather fly at once into the bosom of a mild and fertile country, or embark upon the ocean, where a free and unvarying atmosphere can do more for their relief than physic or physicians. This should be a first step, and not a last resort. In one case it will almost invariably enable a man to return in sound health to his family and friends, in the other it almost as invariably adds to the weight of his sorrows, that worst of all—the thought that he must die among strangers.

FREE LIVING.

One of the most common causes of all violent disorders, is that which is popularly termed fulness of the vessels, or technically, a plethoric condition of the system, arising from errors in diet; from excess or imprudent indulgence in the quality or quantity of food and drink. These indulgences produce and keep up an unnatural excitement, under which accidental circumstances more readily occasion disease of an acute or inflammatory character. They also affect the organs of digestion which are possessed of almost universal sympathy, and by fur-

nishing an excessive quantity of new supplies, overload the vascular system, bringing it into a state in which local disease may be very easily produced; and instead of furnishing healthy nourishment, convey the seeds of disease over the whole body. Individuals are not aware of the tendency of the habits in which they daily indulge, until disease manifests itself in various parts of the body. In the first instance, a too plethoric condition is evinced by increase in bulk, and a florid, or rather healthy appearance; but if we investigate the matter more closely, we shall find that such persons are by no means in a healthy state. In order to see the full effects of the habits above alluded to, it is necessary to look at cases in which they have been carried to an excessive degree. In populous towns, there are opportunities of observing these effects on an extensive scale. The labouring classes who are in general firm, robust men from the country consume enormous quantities of beer, porter, and spirit, besides double the quantity of animal food that health requires. It is among these people that we see attacks of inflammatory disorders of the most violent kind. Slight injuries, which in others would be unimportant, produce in them severe inflammation, the nature of which is always obstinate and its termination frequently fatal. They live in fact on the brink of disease; the slightest accident often carries them off, and if they escape casualties, their habits of living lead to a variety of diseases and premature dissolution; the majority not surviving the age of fifty.

LECTURES.

We were long ago reminded by advertisements in many country papers, that the lecture season is approaching, and of the advantages which students possess at some of our medical schools. In our paper of to-day will be found the advertisement of the medical school at Dartmouth College. We have no objection to notices of this kind, nor do we see how they can influence students as regards where they will attend lectures.—If there are at any place peculiarities in the course of instruction, which are of service to stu-

dents, (and we believe there are) why not publish them, that those who are interested may have the means of judging where their time can be spent to the greatest advantage? Our paper is at the service of those who are connected with medical schools, and may wish to communicate to the profession any information on this subject.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Abscess, 1—Childbed, 1—Cholera Infantum, 1—Consumption, 3—Canker, 1—Dysentery, 1—Fits, 1—Hooping Cough, 1—Lethargy, 1—Nervous Fever, 1—Unknown, 5—Bilious Fever, 1. Males, 8—Females, 10.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

THE MEDICAL LECTURES at Hanover, N. H. will commence on Thursday, the 7th of next Sept., and continue fourteen weeks, with four lectures daily.

Matriculating Ticket, 2 dolls.

Lecture Fees, 50 dolls,

to be paid in the Lecture term; or the payment secured by notes with responsible endorsers.

Students who have attended two full courses of Lectures, one of which shall have been at this Institution, may be admitted to examination for the degree of M. D. by complying with the other requisites; or may attend a third course gratis, at this institution, on the condition of being responsible for the expenses of graduation.

An arrangement has been made for conferring degrees at the close of the Lectures, and at Commencement.

A large galvanic battery, several electro-magnetic instruments, minute dissections of the cerebral nerves, mercurial injections of the most important lymphatics, and several wet preparations in the obstetrical department, have been added the last year.

Dr Dana has recently been appointed Professor at New York, but will nevertheless deliver the Chymical Lectures here this season.

D. College, Hanover, N. H. }
July, 9, 1826. }

Vaccination.

THE undersigned devotes his professional time chiefly to the business of Vaccination, and to the preservation of the genuine vaccine matter for the use of others.

Physicians will be regularly supplied with matter for any period of time they may agree for, not less than six years, for an annual fee of 5 dollars payable in advance.

Tickets will also be issued from this Institution that will entitle any Physician or other citizen of the United States, to vaccine matter, on the following terms, viz: *Private Tickets* at ten dollars each, that will entitle the holders of the same to fresh matter as often as they may have occasion to use it for three years; and *Public Tickets* at thirty dollars each, that will entitle all persons residing in the neighbourhood of any particular Post Office (large towns and cities excepted) to the same privilege for a like period of time. Private Tickets are to be held by the purchasers themselves and for their own use; and Public Tickets by the Post Masters through whose particular offices all applications for matter forwarded must be made.—Surgeons of the Army and Navy of the U. S. will be furnished with genuine vaccine matter at all times, free of any expense.

All the privileges of this Institution and advantages heretofore offered to Physicians and others, will be secured to them agreeably to their respective engagements with the undersigned.

No letter addressed to the undersigned will be received at any time unless the Postage thereon is paid.

*Vaccine Institution,
Baltimore, 16th Sept. 1825.*

JAMES SMITH.

☞ The introduction of the Small-Pox into North Carolina about four years since, and which occasioned the repeal of the Law "to encourage Vaccination," was not the result of any mistake made by Dr Smith, as he was at first induced to believe. It has since been discovered and shown that this fatal occurrence is to be attributed entirely to a wicked trick, that was unsuspected at the time, and could not have been guarded against by any person. For a more full account of it, however, the reader who feels interested is referred to a letter addressed by Dr Smith, 3d February, 1824, to Mr Clay, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to a subsequent report of a Committee in Congress to whom it was referred. This report exonerates Dr Smith from all blame, and recommends the adoption of his entire plan for the general distribution of the vaccine matter.

Sept. 27.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, Proprietor, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St. to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid). Price two dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, two dollars and a half will be required and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 per square.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1826.

NO. 12.

COUNTER-IRRITATION IN INFLAMMATION.

(Concluded from page 70.)

Actual vomiting is of use in various cases of inflammation. It has long been employed in pulmonic inflammation, though in general with a different view, namely, that of promoting expectoration, which it probably does in some degree. I have seen it of great service in *lumbago*, and some other forms of rheumatism. It has also been used in *hernia humoratis*, when the disease has become stationary, and after bloodletting had been employed. Of late it has been had recourse to in obstinate cases of *ophthalmia*, which bleeding had failed to cure.

Vomiting is a powerful remedy in putting a stop to fevers at their commencement, whether of the intermitting or continued kind; and it will occasionally do this in some even of a specific nature, as *scarlatina*. A few years ago, when emetics were more used than at present in the cure of fever, and when I was less acquainted with the advantages of bloodletting, I have frequently witnessed its effects in this way: and if it be so useful in the cases mentioned, it is easy to believe that the same remedy is applicable with advantage in many others. It is impossible to ascribe the good effects of *vomiting* in many of the cases above alluded to, merely to the evacuation produced by it, or the discharge of any thing noxious from the system; while they are easily referrible to the principle of counter-irritation. The great change induced in the actions of almost every part of the system, by the states both of *nausea* and actual *vomiting*, are too obvious to in-

sist upon, and they appear adequate to the remedial effect observed.

The *intestinal canal* is situated equally favourable with the stomach, for the purpose of counter-irritation. It is easy of access, sufficiently open to impression, and both by its extent, vascularity, and sympathy with other parts, affords a powerful medium of influencing the rest of the system. In acting upon this part, too, we influence, in a secondary way, a number of other organs situated in the same cavity, and connected with it by similarity of office.

The almost sole object in acting upon the intestinal canal in the treatment of diseases, has hitherto been that of discharging its contents with greater frequency than usual, or, as we call it, of producing *purging*; upon the supposition, that something noxious was thus carried off, upon the retention of which the disease depended. This notion appears to have been entertained in all ages, down to the present time; and accordingly no class of remedies has been in such constant use as that of *cathartics* or *purgatives*, especially for the cure of inflammation. At the present day, the *stools* are scrutinized with a degree of minuteness that is quite ridiculous, not to say disgusting; and standards have been established for their colour, consistency, quantity, &c; as if the whole *ars medendi* were confined to the night-table. Now nine times in ten, the changes observed in the alvine discharges, are the effect and not the cause of the disease. They may, no doubt, be usefully attended to, as indications of health, or otherwise; but in themselves, except in particu-

lar cases, they throw but little light upon the nature of the disease, nor do they in general suggest the proper mode of treatment. On many occasions, the changes observed in the state of the evacuations are the result of the very means employed to produce them; and thus often lead to improper practice. I might instance this in the case of children, in the healthiest of whom the doses of *calomel* and *scammony* ordinarily prescribed, will at any time produce the most unnatural and offensive discharges; the appearance of which again, is thought a sufficient reason for the repetition of the medicine; till at length actual, and often irremediable disease, is excited in the intestinal canal, if not throughout the whole cavity.

Purgatives appear to be of general use in inflammations of the head, neck, and skin, and that whether acute or chronic. On many occasions they may be trusted to alone, though they ought not to be allowed to supersede bloodletting in cases of greater magnitude. Like *emetics*, they may be considered as more effectual, when used after bleeding than before. In most inflammations of the alimentary canal, and of the abdominal viscera in general, they are of great importance. In *enteritis*, however, of an acute kind, and attended with absolute constipation, they are capable, if urged far, or of a drastic kind, of doing much harm. The violence of the inflammation should be subdued by bleeding, before the more active cathartics are employed: and, indeed, if that object is attained, evacuation will in general readily, if not spontaneously, follow. So that there is in reality less need of active purgatives in these cases, than is commonly supposed. They are objectionable in another respect, by their tendency to excite vomiting, one of the most distressing symptoms of *enteritis*. This objection does not of course apply to the use of purgatives in the way of injection, a practice

that cannot be too much commended. It has been a general observation among physicians, that purgatives are less efficacious in thoracic inflammation, than in others. In *diarrhoea*, or inflammation of the mucous surface of the intestines, the exhibition of a mild cathartic, such as rhubarb, is generally proper at the commencement of the disease, and in most cases suffices for the cure. You must bear in mind that the often repeated use of active purgatives, may excite inflammation in the canal, and in this way prove injurious. It is especially necessary to be aware of this in infants, and in patients labouring under fever, or other brain-affections, who may be incapable of describing their sensations.

The skin may be acted upon in various ways, in order to produce counter-irritation. Heat, cold, and a variety of irritating applications, may be employed for the purpose, some of them with the effect of inducing actual inflammation, which is then to be considered as the remedial agent.

The hot-bath is often serviceable in internal inflammations, especially of an acute kind. The practice, however, requires limitation. It is not adapted to the most active form of inflammation in strong subjects, at least till the violence of action has been somewhat subdued by bloodletting or other means. The hot-bath is not proper where the breathing is much oppressed. I have seen it induce an alarming sense of suffocation in such cases, by increasing the general circulation at a time, when the lungs are not in a condition to transmit the blood as fast as it is sent to them by the right side of the heart. The hot-bath is also objectionable where the vascular action of the brain is in a state of great excitement. The *semi-cupium*, *pediu-vium*, and *fomentations*, are all to be considered as partial applications of the hot-bath, and admit of the same general observations being made with regard to them.

The sudden and intense application of *cold* to the skin, as by the *cold bath*, or *cold affusion*, produces a great and universal effect on the system, as is evident by an examination of the different functions. It is an agent therefore well calculated to influence diseased action by *counter-irritation*. It has not, however, been employed to any great extent, from a dread of its use. We are so accustomed to attribute inflammation to *cold*, as its cause, that it is difficult at first to consider it in the light of a remedy. We have, however, sufficient proofs of its power to check the course of ordinary fever in many instances: and it has been occasionally employed in *enteritis*; not so much, however, with the intention of directly relieving the inflammation as to overcome the constipation generally present in these cases. But we are in want of facts upon this subject.

Stimulating the skin in various ways, as by friction, irritating applications, and exciting inflammation artificially, by *cantharides* and the like, comes under the head of *counter-irritation*. These are to be reckoned rather among the secondary or auxiliary means of cure, than as principals, though they are sometimes sufficient for the removal of slight and chronic inflammations. If, as there is reason to believe, it is the inflammation excited by blistering, and not any discharge occasioned by it, that is the source of the benefit derived, one sees no ground for the preference so generally given to *cantharides* for the purpose; for inflammation of the skin may be much more quickly produced by the mustard-poultice, and also by ammonia in a liquid form, than by the application of *blisters*; which, by the general irritation they often occasion, amounting sometimes to delirium, and still more by the inflammation they are so apt to excite in the urinary passages, are liable to great objection, and often wholly inadmissi-

ble. What particular preference is due to *erysipelatous* inflammation excited by *blistering*, in comparison with the *pustular* inflammation produced by *tartarized antimony*, is far from being satisfactorily ascertained. The *counter-irritation* produced by *issues* and *setons*, is adapted to the *chronic*, rather than the *acute* forms of inflammation.

I may observe respecting *blisters*, that they are not well adapted to the early stage of violent inflammation, while the general vascular action is in great excess. In such cases, they tend rather to aggravate than to mitigate the disease, as well as to disturb in a great degree the general system.—*Dr Clutterbuck's Lectures.*

THE CURE FOR WORMS.

As considerable excitement has been created in several sections of the Union, from the publication made in this paper of the 13th ult. relative to the important discovery made by Mr Aaron Hannum, for the expulsion of worms, and in consequence of which we have been solicited to give more particulars through the medium of the above letter as well as by public journals, we shall endeavour to satisfy the public excitement not only from verbal information, but from ocular demonstration, as to the powerful efficacy of the Cedar Apple upon those within our knowledge who have taken it, as well as the impossibility of its doing any injury to those who may eat the apple.

1st. The Apple or Knot is to be found upon the Red Cedar, the white cedar tree is not to be found, we believe in this country.

2d. The apple bears no resemblance in shape, size, or any similarity, to the Cedar berry. The apple is a sort of excrescence, and which is to be found at all seasons of the year, on the small boughs or twigs of the cedar tree, "varying in size from the hazel to that of the black walnut," bearing a strong resem-

bance to a nitted potatoe. The apple which is of last year's growth, and perfectly dried, does not look like the orchard apple, and is not so bitter as those of this year's growth, but as a medicine, they possess the same virtue as those that are green, and can be grated or pounded fine, and taken in molasses.

3d. The apple, which contains some moisture, can be eaten like any other fruit. The quantity Mr H. recommends, just as they come from the tree, is one for every year that the child is old, and to be taken nine mornings in succession, fasting.

From our own experience of the efficacy of the Cedar Apple, we should say that a much less quantity would do. However, the apple is perfectly innocent, and any quantity may be eaten without being attended with any bad effects. To prove that a small portion will answer, we will cite a case. A lad 18 years of age, belonging to this office, eat a piece of last year's apple about the size of a pea, and in 24 hours afterwards, no less than *twenty-four worms* were expelled—and another case in the neighbourhood, of a child 17 months old, who eat about half an apple, and one hundred were expelled, and we are happy to say, that in no instance have we heard as yet, that the remedy has failed in having the desired effect.—*Penn. Upland Union.*

DEATH OF THE PRESIDENTS.

The mutual influence of the body and the mind, has long been a theme of discussion for Doctors of Physic and Divinity. Although we are not yet arrived at certain knowledge of the manner in which our material and spiritual parts are connected, we do know how often and how powerfully the one is affected by causes operating directly on the other. Health may be destroyed by continued grief, and derangement of the digestive organs uniformly induces mental depression. The intellectual powers are weakened by protracted disease of the body,

and life itself is often sacrificed at the shrine of despondency or passion.

We cannot allow so remarkable an illustration of this influence as that furnished by the recent decease of the illustrious Patriots, *Addams* and *Jefferson*, to pass without a comment. Far be it from us to regard the coincidence of their departure as less wonderful than it is regarded by others, or to discountenance the idea that it does not evince, in a striking manner, the special interference of Divine Providence—the unmerited favour of the great **CREATOR**. But is there one among us who has not seen many instances in which the human machine has been kept in operation by artificial means, sometime after it would otherwise have ceased to act. We all know there are stimulants which can effect this purpose, and those stimulants produce the same effect whether applied to the body or the mind.

Again, still oftener have we seen cases in which, after an uncommon exercise of the mental powers, the frame has become exhausted, and life ceased. In the history of some of our greatest men we find examples of death happening in consequence of the relaxation which must follow a very unusual exercise of the mental powers. Individuals who have held offices of great responsibility and activity, are seldom found to live long after they have relinquished such offices. The mind which had been accustomed to a certain degree of stimulus, sinks when the excitement is removed. So that a man of active habits seldom survives long his usefulness.

In the illustrious example before us we see both these causes operating together. It is certainly not *very* remarkable that two men so far advanced as were the late Presidents should be indisposed at the advent of the hot season, though it is certainly singular that both should have been so much more ill in this than any former year. Now had the same indisposition occurred at any other part of the year, it is not at all probable that these venerated Patriots would have left us on the same day. But see the influence of

their minds over their enfeebled frames. For the few days or even weeks previous to the Jubilee, a kind of artificial life was undoubtedly kept up in both of them, by a strong desire to see the 50th Anniversary of their country's Independence. This excitement kept in operation—in extraordinary operation, all the powers of the system. As the Jubilee approached, the excitement was increased. But when they had opened their eyes on the wished for day, and thanked Heaven that they had lived to see it, the excitement was suddenly removed, the power which had kept up life was taken away, a proportional degree of relaxation and debility ensued, and the vital spark was momentarily extinguished.

Thus do we see in what manner it happened that these two Patriots expired simultaneously with the 50th year of that Independence they had spent their lives in obtaining and preserving for themselves, their children, and their country.

INFLUENCE OF THE ATMOSPHERE ON THE HUMAN BODY.

BY G. GREGORY, M. D. LONDON.

Dr. Johnson, it is well known, held in contempt, at least till very near his death, the notion that the weather affects the human frame. His impatience, when the conversation turned on that subject, was constantly shewing itself. Such a topic, he used to say, could be interesting only to men in a mine or in a dungeon. He advised Boswell to keep a journal, but not to mention whether the weather was fair or rainy; and this advice he gave upon principle, believing that the supposed effect of atmospheric changes was mere imagination, encouraged by physicians. He ridiculed his friend for complaining that moisture in the air depressed the spirits and relaxed the nerves;—and added, “some delicate frames indeed may be affected by wet weather, but not common constitutions.” Dr Johnson, in these remarks, does not appear to his usu-

al advantage. He might fairly have presumed that an impression so general in the world as that of the *morbific* influence of atmospheric variations, must have had some foundation in nature; and if any one had directed his powerful mind to the detail of facts, and to the reasonableness of the principle, it is probable he would have confessed his error. The writer, at least, is fain to indulge this hope, while he expresses the firm conviction of his own mind, not only that the world is correct in its commonly received opinions, but that the principle in nature on which these opinions are founded, is one of much more extensive application in the phenomena of disease than is generally imagined. He would go so far as to say, that of all the causes of disease, it is that which operates most widely—that the permanent character of the air (or *climate*) is what mainly contributes to produce in our bodies *predisposition* to disease;—that sudden changes in the qualities of the air are the principal circumstances, which, in a state of predisposition, *excite* disease; and that to the same principle may be traced the acknowledged good effects which are frequently witnessed from *change of air*, when the body is labouring under disease, and the occasional bad effects of change of climate, (in the shape of *seasoning fevers*) the system being previously healthy. It is a generally received opinion, and a perfectly correct one, that a person is never so liable to take small pox as when he first comes from the country to reside in the city. Although physicians are constantly in the habit of sending consumptive patients to the sea-side, they well know that delicate persons, not actually labouring under disease, frequently spit blood after a journey.

When from the facts of the case, we turn our attention to the *theoretical principle*, little ground will be left for scepticism. We see the air

made indispensable to our very existence. An apparatus is expressly provided by which every particle of blood in the body is successively exposed to the chemical influence of the air, many thousands times in the course of each day. The *mechanical* qualities of the air must necessarily affect that important and extensive membrane, the skin, the functions of which are so intimately connected with those of the internal organs. Upon the whole, then, it may be stated, that mankind are fully justified, both by fact and theory, in the inviolable custom of testifying their friendship by congratulations on the fineness, or condolences on the moisture and closeness of the atmosphere.

AMPUTATION OF THE TONGUE.

BY DR. PROBART, HOWARDEN, ENG.

In April, 1825, William Fennah, a stout healthy boy, about four years of age, was brought to have my opinion on a tumor about the size of a nutmeg, situated on the tip of the tongue.

The mother informed me that she first perceived it about two months prior to this period, and that it had gradually, but rapidly increased. It presented a peculiar granulated appearance, very much resembling a mulberry half ripened, feeling hard, and was free from pain. I prescribed the application of *argent. nitrat.* gr. viij: *aqua. destill.* 3j. ter die: and directed him to take *hydr. c. creta* gr. x: *omni noct. and pulv. rheii.* gr. vj. *sodæ* gr. x. ter die. These he persisted in for three weeks, the disease being still on the advance, until at length it began to assume a very formidable aspect. In five weeks from the period I first saw the tumor, it had increased to the size of a hen's egg, protruding nearly two inches beyond the lips, which were separated widely by it, preventing the little patient taking any thing but spoon meat, and that with difficulty.

Since there appeared no hope of any abatement of the disease, by perseverance in palliative means, I proposed the amputation of the part, to which the parents reluctantly acquiesced. For this purpose, to command the haemorrhage, of which I was apprehensive from the enlarged vessels supplying the tumor, I had made two flat pieces of steel; about four inches in length, and half an inch in breadth, perforated at each end for the admission of screws. The child's head being firmly held, I now plunged a hook into the centre of the tumor, and thus drawing out the tongue as far as practicable, had it firmly held in that position, while I placed the steel plates above and beneath that organ, posterior to the diseased mass; then closing each end with screws, I effectually compressed the vessels, and with a sweep of my scalpel separated the part, leaving about one fourth of the tongue in a sound state. On slackening the screws, a profuse bleeding took place, from innumerable vessels, which I found every application short of the actual cautery totally inadequate to suppress. With this, however, I succeeded; and, I am happy to add, the boy was speedily restored to health, without any untoward circumstance: the wounded part being quite healed in the space of a fortnight, articulation being gradually restored; and up to the present time, the little fellow is in the enjoyment of perfect health.
—*Lancet.*

ACCIDENTAL FORMATION OF VESSELS.

Several anatomists dispute the theory, recently broached, regarding the organization of false membranes; they cannot admit that vessels make a way for themselves through the plastic matter exhaled from an irritated surface, still less that these vessels have in the first instance an isolated circulation. Vessels, however, do exist in false membranes, and we are then forced to suppose that they are propagated from the neighbour-

ing parts by means of a sort of turgescence of the cellular membrane. Nature shows us at every instant, examples of the spontaneous formation of vessels. It is therefore improbable that they exist in the egg before incubation, their gradual development indeed has been followed from day to day, in the vittellary membrane.

When a new or false membrane occurs free from all adhesion between two contiguous serous surfaces, and injected with vessels, are we to conclude that they have proceeded from the serous membranes, or that they have been developed in the false membrane? I have seen a membrane of this kind of considerable size, floating in the chest of a woman affected with hydrothorax. The fluid contained in the pleura was perfectly transparent; here and there the pleura presented hard masses of cerebriform tissue, but in the intervals between these it was pale and smooth. The false membrane, however, was of a deep red colour, a circumstance produced by the presence of an infinity of blood-vessels coursing through it. M. Beclard used frequently to show this false membrane in his lectures, which I had dried upon a glass plate, and which I still retain. It was impossible to demonstrate the slightest connexion between it and the pleura.

LEECHES.

A correspondent of a foreign journal says, that if leeches be immersed in a cup of vinegar after having been applied, they will disgorge themselves, and if washed clean, will take hold again as readily as at first. This process by being repeated enables the operator to accomplish as much with a few, as would otherwise require a great number.

UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.—M. Gondret, in a letter addressed to the Editor of the *Gazette de Sante*, states a simple method, which he has employed successfully, for arresting uterine hæmorrhage. He applies on the back, between the shoulders, a dry oxal cupping glass, the vertical diameter of which is four or five inch-

es, and the transverse diameter from two to three inches. He lets it remain for half an hour; in general the hæmorrhage stops, or is very considerably diminished in the space of a few minutes. The application of cupping glasses, he observes, has also been found successful in diminishing immoderate menstrual discharge.*

COURT PLASTER.—Take of isinglass half an ounce; Turlington's (or Friar's) balsam, a drachm; melt the isinglass in an ounce of water, and boil the solution till a great part of the water is consumed; then add gradually to it the balsam, stirring them well together. After the mixture has continued a short time over the fire, take the vessel off, and spread the extended silk with it, while it is yet fluid with heat, using a brush for spreading it.

SURGERY.—In the scientific part of the first number of a medical journal published at Delft, called "Geneeskundige Bydragen," it is said that M. Van Haan, a surgeon at Rotterdam, lately effected the ligature of the iliac artery in the pelvis, in a case of aneurism; and that the operation succeeded so well, that the patient completely recovered in the course of a few weeks.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Athenia, 1—Bilious Colic, 1—Canker, 1—Consumption, 3—Dysentery, 1—Fever, 1—Hooping Cough, 2—Infantile, 2—Intemperance, 2—Liver Complaint, 2—Typhus Fever, 1—Ulcer, 1—Unknown, 3. Males, 10—Females, 11.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

THE MEDICAL LECTURES at Hanover, N. H. will commence on Thursday, the 7th of next Sept., and continue fourteen weeks, with four lectures daily.

Matriculating Ticket, 2 dolls.

Lecture Fees, 50 dolls,

to be paid in the Lecture term; or the payment secured by notes with responsible endorsers.

Students who have attended two full courses of Lectures, one of which shall have been at this Institution, may be admitted to examination for the degree of M. D. by complying with the other requisites; or may attend a third course gratis, at this institution, on the condition of being responsible for the expenses of graduation.

* The application of a large cupping glass to the breasts, with a view of checking the menstrual discharge, is recommended in one of the Aphorisms of Hippocrates.

An arrangement has been made for conferring degrees at the close of the Lectures, and at Commencement.

A large galvanic battery, several electro-magnetic instruments, minute dissections of the cerebral nerves, mercurial injections of the most important lymphatics, and several wet preparations in the obstetrical department, have been added the last year.

Dr Dana has recently been appointed Professor at New York, but will nevertheless deliver the Chymical Lectures here this season.

D. College, Hanover, N. H. }
July, 9, 1826. }

MECKEL'S MANUAL.

PROPOSALS for publishing by Subscription a Manual of General, Descriptive, and Pathological Anatomy, by J. F. MECKEL, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Halle. Translated from the German, with additions, by A. J. L. JOURDAN and G. BRESCHET, members of the Royal Academy of Medicine at Paris, &c. Translated from the French, by G. BRADFORD, M. D.

Advertisement of the French Editors.

A work has long been desired, which should comprise all the important facts in the sciences of general, descriptive, and pathological Anatomy and Physiology. Such a work required an acquaintance with these sciences equally extensive and profound, and could not have been executed except by one of the first anatomists of the age. M. Meckel, who so worthily sustains the hereditary medical celebrity of his family, and to whom we are indebted for many other works of the first order, has not feared to undertake a work of such magnitude. His treatise of Anatomy, regarded as a classic in Germany, cannot but be received with equal favour in our own country. It is one of the most valuable productions of the school of Bichat,—of that Bichat, who has made France the envy of Europe, and to whom M. Meckel renders the noblest tribute, that talents can pay to genius, the tribute of admiration, without enthusiasm. We have endeavoured to add to the translation of the Manual every fact, with which the science has been enriched since its publication.

Paris, 1825. —

The subscriber has been encouraged to undertake the translation of Professor

Meckel's Manual, by the advice of gentlemen of eminence in the profession, by the celebrity which this Manual has obtained in Europe, and by the consideration that the want of such a work must be continually felt by every scientific member of the profession in this country, and that there is none of the kind now existing in the English language.

G. BRADFORD.

The medical literature of this country appears to want an accurate work on anatomy, which comprehends the observations and improvements of late years. In the French language, the productions of Boyer and Bichat are to be considered admirable examples of exact description. The habits and taste of this country require a work differing from these, in its combining with anatomy an account of the uses and the diseased changes of the parts described. Such a labour has been executed in Germany, by Meckel of illustrious name, and this has been lately adopted into the French language by Messrs. Jourdan and Breschet. With these recommendations in its favour, and combining with them, as it does, the excellent qualities of the treatises of Soemmering, Boyer, Bichat, Portal, and the best English authors, a translation of the "Manual of Anatomy" of Meckel would be a very desirable, and, I doubt not, a very successful publication.

JOHN C. WARREN.

Boston, June, 1826.

Extract from a notice of the French edition of Meckel, contained in the Medico-Chirurgical Review, for July, 1825.

"This is the best work on Anatomy ever published.—Here would be an excellent book to translate."

CONDITIONS.

The translation will be printed on a new type and good paper, in three volumes, octavo, of from 600 to 650 pages each. The price to subscribers will be \$2,50 a volume, payable on delivery.

Should the subscription authorize it, the work will be put to press by the first of August, and published in the course of the ensuing winter.

Cambridge, June 1, 1826.

Subscription papers are left at the Bookstores of Messrs. Cummings, Hilliard & Co. and H. Gray, Boston, and William Hilliard, Cambridge, where gentlemen disposed to patronize the work are requested to forward their names.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, Proprietor, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St. to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid). Price two dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, two dollars and a half will be required and this will, in no case, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 per square.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1826.

NO. 13.

OF THE INFLAMMATION OF ARTERIES.

Inflamed arteries, it is said, are converted into a substance which cuts like cheese or lard, when the degree of constriction necessary to arrest hæmorrhage is applied upon them. The speedy fall of the ligature then causes dangerous consecutive bleeding, and hence the precept never to search for arteries among inflamed parts, and to apply ligatures, by means of proper incisions higher up, on the trunk of the bleeding vessel.

To appreciate the value of such advice, we must endeavour to ascertain, 1st, whether the arteries are very liable to inflammation; and, 2dly, if the phenomena which attend their inflammation are compatible with traumatic hæmorrhagy.

1. *Are the arteries apt to be attended with inflammation?* Arteries may lie exposed in the middle of inflamed or degenerated parts; they may be completely or incompletely divided; they may be tied. Let us note all that happens in these various cases.

All the authors on pathology and general anatomy, have commented on the singular prerogative enjoyed by arteries of remaining healthy amid inflamed or degenerated parts. Turn to the following case for an instance of this.

A man had an attack of gangrenous erysipelas; the fall of the sloughs gave rise to two large ulcers of the lower part of the abdomen. The skin hung in flaps around these sores, which were spreading in almost every direction, so that in three weeks the whole surface of the abdomen was occupied by an ulcer. The external iliac artery of the left side was seen beating at the bottom of the

wound, from the place at which it leaves the peritoneum, to where it plunges beneath the crural arch. In this state matters remained for several weeks. The patient died at length. On dissecting the body, the layer of vascular granulations which had been formed over the artery, had to be scraped away to expose the vessel. The artery was perfectly healthy, no wise inflamed or fragile; its colour was not even altered. M. Beclard and I endeavoured to cut it with a ligature, but in vain.

Nothing can be better calculated to remove the slight disposition which the arterial tissue has to inflammation, than a study of the phenomena of phlebitis, or inflammation of the veins. In this case the arteries are often plunged amid inflamed and suppurating parts, and nevertheless they remain perfectly healthy. A ligature may, therefore, be applied with all propriety to an artery denuded or situated among inflamed parts, if it be necessary. Nay, an artery which is partially divided, scarcely inflames; the absence of inflammation, indeed, is the very cause of the repeated hæmorrhages that happen in such a case. The fear of finding the vessel in a state unfavorable for the application of a ligature ought not therefore to induce recurrence to violent as well as unnecessary means to stop the bleeding. The vessel is to be sought for in the vicinity of its wound, and one ligature applied above and another below the bleeding orifice.

2. *Are the phenomena which attend inflammation of the arteries compatible with traumatic hæmorrhage?* Inflamed arteries lose the physical

qualities which distinguish them; they cease to be elastic, they are really torn and cut, and yield to the action of a ligature; but are these the sole characters which distinguish inflammations of the arteries? Is not the prime, the most important of all here omitted? I mean the obliteration of the vessels. In fact, the obliteration of their cavities is one of the most regular of all the phenomena which accompany inflammation of the arteries.

If the arteries, then, are less liable to inflammation than any other system of vessels, they are also more frequently the seat of the adhesive process than any others. This is a fact upon which almost all at the present day are agreed. When an aneurismal tumor gets inflamed, when the sac becomes a vast abscess, the safety of the patient is entrusted entirely to the inflammation, which, being propagated from the tumor by continuity to the artery, causes obliteration of the latter.

When an artery is tied, again, the parts immediately constricted die and give way, whilst those in their vicinity undergo all the phenomena of eliminatory and adhesive inflammation; so that whilst the artery is becoming weak, and its cohesion is diminishing, its cavity is getting obliterated; it is plugged up by a clot, mixed with the coagulable lymph exhaled from the interior. The solidity of the barrier to the course of the blood, depends, in a great measure, on the extent through which the artery has undergone the changes I have just indicated. If the extent exceed not a line or two, the impetus of the blood may overcome the barrier and hemorrhage ensue; but then the vessel will be healthy a few lines higher up, and there can be no occasion to go seeking for it *six inches* above the wound. If, on the contrary, the inflammatory process has extended much above the ligature, the barrier opposed to the column of blood cannot be surmounted, so that

the inflammation is precisely that which prevents hemorrhage, far from being the cause of its secondary appearance.

In order to have bleeding after the application of a ligature, and to have any grounds for the alarm which has been expressed in regard to its application it would be necessary that the sides of the artery should lose their cohesion through a considerable space without its cavity ceasing to be permeable; in other words, that it should only present a part of the anatomical characters of its inflammation. Nevertheless, hemorrhages, it may be said, are seen to happen after the successive application of ligatures. This I do not deny; but there are many modes of accounting for these hemorrhages, without recurring to the supposition of inflammation of the arteries. I have already mentioned one; to it may be added, 1st, the pathological alterations of the arteries, which, according to Vacca Berlinghiéri, are the most ordinary causes of consecutive hemorrhage, by incapacitating the artery from daily undergoing the adhesive inflammation. No doubt but that many ligatures may, under such circumstances, be applied successively and fruitlessly to the same vessel; 2d, the case in which the artery is not adequately compressed, or is tied obliquely; 3d, that in which the artery of a limb is tied a very short distance below the point from which a considerable collateral branch is detached, &c

It is so easy to apply what precedes to the case in which an artery is cut across, that I shall say nothing on the subject. It must be evident that the general conclusion which may be drawn from these observations, is widely opposed to the assertion which I have endeavoured to combat.

Archives Generales.

DIGESTION.

The French Academy of Sciences having last year proposed, as a prize

subject, to determine, by a series of chemical and physiological experiments, what are the phenomena which succeed one another in the digestive organs during the act of digestion, granted to Messrs Leuret and Lasseigne the sum of 1,500 francs, in consideration of the numerous and expensive experiments made by them, and of the remarkable results obtained. The principal conclusion to be drawn from the researches of these gentlemen is, that digestion, in warm-blooded animals, consists in the transformation of the food into organical or chyleous molecules, after it has been diluted and divided to infinity by the juices of the intestinal canal. These molecules, of a globulous shape, they consider analogous to monads, or microscopic animalcula of the simplest kind. In support of this supposition they adduce the great quantity of these animalcula which are found in the intestines of frogs, and which they also regard as the produce of digestion. If, on the one hand, it may be objected to them that the stagnant water, which these reptiles inhabit, contain numbers of these minute beings, which they may probably swallow, it must on the other hand be acknowledged, that learned naturalists have expressed a similar opinion, and have considered these animalcula as being rather the elementary molecules of animals and perhaps of vegetables, than real animals. In order to show their sense of the obstacles in the way of the complete solution of the question proposed by the Academy, Messrs Leuret and Lasseigne conclude their memoir as follows. "It is impossible, in the existing state of knowledge, to determine the chemical alterations which food undergoes in the digestive canal, because the means of analysis are insufficient, and because the mixture of the food with the juices in the digestive canal, renders the results of any experiment exceedingly complicated."

ACETATE OF MORPHINE.

External application in a particular affection of the Stomach and Intestines.

Rosa S., 18 years of age, entered La Pitié, with a burning skin, small and frequent pulse, the tongue dry and brown on the edges and point, complaining of violent pain upon pressure in the epigastrum, and over the whole abdomen, cardialgia, nausea, and vomiting of every thing, whether liquid or solid, taken into the stomach; the belly was distended, bowels constipated; there was constant pain between the shoulders, and complete extinction of the voice; the urine high coloured and scanty; the countenance animated; continual restlessness, and total absence of sleep.

After a protracted labour, this patient, about twelve months ago, had had a violent attack of peritonitis which was combated by the most vigorous antiphlogistic means. Since this time the belly never recovered its natural suppleness, and the menstrual discharge only appeared at irregular intervals. To these remains of a serious disease, Rosa S. was attacked about two months ago with a gastro enteritis, (or at least an affection which resembled it,) for which she passed six weeks in a Maison de Santé, where she did not pay strict attention to the physician's prescriptions, and whence she departed as she had entered, vomiting every thing she swallowed, and going on from bad to worse. On entering La Pitié, we conceived we had to do with a chronic inflammatory affection of the stomach, intestines, and peritoneum. M. Serres gave a very unfavourable prognosis, and conceived the only chance the patient had of recovery was, the observance of a very strict regimen for a long period of time. A large cataplasm was applied over the umbilical region, and all the food ordered was some mucilaginous drink, and a little milk. The moment the liquids were swal-

lowed, however, vomiting, which continued long, was excited. A blister was then applied to the epigastrium, and some jelly of lichen was retained in the stomach. Fourteen days after her entrance, a glass of Barege water, mixed with milk, was tried, divided into three parts, but it brought on such violent vomiting, with convulsive efforts, after the last dose, that the house surgeon, M. Lambert, had to be called. He, being actually engaged in inquiries upon the effects of certain medicines and vegetable salts and alkalies applied to the skin, when he found that the patient had a blister open, seized the opportunity of trying to allay the distressing symptoms by means of the acetate of morphine. He, therefore, took about half a grain in powder, and sprinkled it over the surface, deprived of its epidermis. In a few moments the retching ceased as by enchantment; the patient also passed a better night than she had hitherto done. M. Serres, anxious to ascertain the effects of the morphine, authorized its continued use; half a grain was once more applied, and the patient slept during the whole of the day. Sugar and lichen jelly were still, however, the only aliments that remained on the stomach. The quantity of the acetate employed was gradually increased two grains, when the patient began to eat bread, preparations of milk, and oranges, without any symptoms of vomiting; the tenderness of the abdomen disappeared by degrees; the patient, on awaking one morning, to her great surprise, recovered her voice on a sudden; the belly became more supple; more nourishing food was allowed, and every thing promises return to perfect health, if the patient submits a little longer to the prescribed dietetic rules.—*Arch. Gen.*

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

The extent to which animal magnetism may be applied for the purpose of removing disorder from the system, has long been a subject of inquiry in France and

Germany. In France, men of eminent merit, excited by conviction, and trampling prejudice under foot, have called for a new examination of recent facts, the utility of which is not problematical. The Royal Academy of Medicine, with an imposing majority, on the proposition of Dr Foissac, has appointed a permanent commission of thirty members to examine the subject. Several physicians at Paris, in March last, established a Journal of Animal Magnetism, in which the subject will be critically weighed in relation to former and recent observations.

In this country, but little attention has hitherto been paid to it. Mr Gimbredé, Prof. of Drawing at West Point, has recently been in this city, and shown by a number of experiments that it may be applied to a variety of diseases with great advantage. The leading principles of the doctrine are, that by placing the hand upon a part that is painful, to serve as a conductor, the operator can, by an effort of mind, impart to the sufferer a salutary and so powerful an influence, as in a short time to overcome the most violent pain. It is necessary that the whole force of the mind be directed to the object with the utmost intensity; the effect being in proportion to this force. To increase this influence, a number of persons may be arranged in a circle, each of whose minds must be intensely fixed on the subject. The process is continued from ten to twenty minutes, according to the circumstances of the patient, and if properly conducted is said to be followed by powerful effects.

In dispensing this remedy, Mr Gimbredé does not pretend to any inherent faculty by which he is able to impart a peculiar influence to others, beyond what is possessed in some degree by every other person; and from his character as a gentleman of liberality and research, it is unnecessary to say that the doctrine is tested without mystery, and discussed with the utmost freedom. We will only add, that whatever value is hereafter to be placed upon it as a remedial agent, there are those in this city who are grateful to

Mr Gimbredre for restoring to them a degree of strength and comfort which they had been strangers to for a long time, which ordinary means could not have procured for them, and which they did not expect again to experience.

DROPSY.

"Then Hydrops next appears among the throng,
Bloated and big, she slowly moves along ;
But, like a miser, in excess she 's poor,
And pines for thirst amid her watery store."

Exploded ideas of practice are not always known to be such by the generality of the profession till many years after they have been relinquished by the most observing and scientific. There still exists among many physicians a notion that a dropsical patient must be denied every kind of liquid. This notion is wholly at war with every principle of Homoeopathy. It has been found inconsistent also with the results of practice, and is now very properly given up.

There are indeed cases in which it is necessary to proscribe copious potations : such are, when a free use of liquids fails to produce any diuretic effect, or when they seem to increase the degree or aggravate any symptoms of the disease. So also we may say of solids, if they aggravate the disease they must be abandoned, and we know not why solid food is not as likely to do this as liquid.

Because the diseased secretion is aqueous, it does not follow that it will be increased by water taken into the stomach. Brandy does not spiritualize the blood any more than it does the disposition. Beef does not solidify the body in proportion to the quantity taken any more than it does the character. On the contrary, those persons who are the greatest gormandizers, are usually lean and spare, and the roundest, fullest, fattest, most oily kind of men, are often those who eat the least. Neither is it correct to argue that the blood becomes *aquefied* by a large quantity of drink, or that a diseased effusion of water is increased by taking liquids into the stomach. On the contrary, by drinking

freely, we stimulate the organs by which the aqueous parts of the blood are carried off from the system, and therefore fulfil one of the principal and most important indications in the cure of all kinds of dropsy.

Not only do liquids act as diuretics in cases of dropsical effusion, but they are frequently advantageous in producing other effects rendered desirable by the peculiarities of each case. If, for example, the disease seems to depend on inflammation, and a free perspiration is considered indispensable to a cure, warm drinks tend greatly to facilitate the accomplishment of this object, and when interdicted by the old notion of their increasing the effusion, this object is often effected with great difficulty, and not perhaps without the administration of some of those stimulants which are more injurious by their heating qualities, than their diaphoretic effects can be beneficial. If also we wish to produce an increase of the excretions generally, and thereby relieve the system of its load, nothing so much as a free use of proper liquids, answers our purpose here ; for they promote the action of the bowels as well as of the kidneys and the skin.

On the whole, then, we think it worth publishing that the relinquishment of the old theory is founded on true principles, and is not the result of a love of change. It is justified by practice as well as by reasoning.

RUPTURE OF THE LEFT VENTRICLE OF THE HEART.

A mason lad, who had fallen head foremost from a high scaffold, was brought to the Hospital of La Pitié, in a senseless state, with stertorous breathing and an imperceptible pulse; he lived about *two hours and a half*. On opening the body, the frontal bone was in the first place found broken into many pieces, and driven in ; the cerebral lobes being reduced to a jelly : 2dly, the pericardium full of partly fluid and partly coagulated blood ; it had been shed from an opening produced by a rupture of

the left ventricular appendix. The opening was circular, with slightly fringed edges, and of such a size as to admit a very large goose quill: 3dly, the liver extensively and deeply torn at the superior part.

This case, along with many others, proves, 1st, that wounds of the heart are not always followed by instant death. In the present instance, indeed, it is probable that the injury of the heart was not by any means, the sole and immediate cause of the patient's death; and, secondly, that the abscesses of the liver, so frequently met with in individuals who have suffered with injuries of the head, are sometimes consequences of the violent commotion this bulky organ endures, when the body receives any severe shake.

What may have been the immediate cause of the rupture of the heart? It ought to be attributed, I conceive, rather to the sudden afflux of blood into the sinus, by the four pulmonary veins, than to any vibration communicated directly to the auricle. A violent and rapid contraction of the chest might have accelerated the flow of blood by the pulmonary veins, and if this effort occurred at the instant when the ventricle contracting tended to push the column of blood, intercepted by the mitral valve, back upon the auricle, the rupture of the latter was almost a necessary consequence.

PURULENT OPHTHALMIA IN THE ADULT.

Treatment.—The first measure is to take blood from the arm, and this in large quantity, so as to produce syncope; we may expect to derive much more benefit from one bleeding of this kind than from a repetition of smaller ones. It may be necessary to repeat the venesection, and if the symptoms remain urgent, we must not hesitate to do it; we may subsequently take blood by cupping from the temple, and apply numerous leeches about the eye. In a case

of severe purulent ophthalmia with chemosis, after having bled the patient largely from the arm, it is a very good practice to put on twelve or eighteen leeches as near as possible round the eye, and to repeat them frequently. Cold or tepid washes should be used. Brisk aperient medicines in the first instance, and afterwards milder purgatives, with low diet, and rest must accompany the other measures: counter-irritation by blisters may be afterwards employed. These means must be repeated and continued till the œdematosus swelling of the lids and the chemosis are reduced, and the pain is gone. The membrane will now be paler, and assume a relaxed and flabby appearance, the discharge still going on most abundantly; we must now alter the plan of treatment and use astringent applications to the organ, with tonic medicines and better diet. By a judicious employment of such means after the inflammatory action has been subdued, we shall succeed in preventing that granulated state of the conjunctiva which is productive of so much inconvenience to the patient, and so much trouble and perplexity to the practitioner. Of astringents, the solution of alum comes the first in order, being employed in the same way as in the infant. It may be followed by the nitrate of silver, or by the undiluted liquor plumbi subacetatis.

Two or three drops of either of the latter liquids should be carefully introduced between the lids twice or three times in the day, and the eye may be bathed occasionally, in the intervals, with the alum solution. While these astringents are thus used in the fluid form, the unguentum hydrargyri nitritis may be advantageously applied to the edges of the lids at night. The strength of these applications must be gradually increased; and they must be persisted in until the palpebral linings have regained their natural state; this is the

only safe criterion of perfect recovery. The dilute sulphuric or nitric acid, with or without bark or cascara, and an occasional mild aperient, are all that can be required in the shape of medicine. We must carefully observe the effect of astringents in the first instance; they cause more or less pain, which goes off, leaving the eye relieved and stronger. But, if the pain should continue, and the redness be increased, we should leave them off, and return to the antiphlogistic means; and for the same reason suspend them at any period, if relapse of inflammation should occur.

Sloughing of the cornea, or spreading ulceration, attended with debility, will require a decided tonic and stimulating treatment,—that is, wine, porter, good diet, and the sulphate of quinine, with local astringents. In that particular kind of ulceration, where there is a deep groove in the margin of the cornea, after stopping the inflammation, we must raise the general powers by good diet and tonics, and leave the ulcer to nature. The very diligent use of astringents and stimuli, particularly the stronger ones, often does mischief. I have seen very rapid recovery in extensive ulcers of this kind, with no local means but simple tepid ablution.

In that ectropium of the lower lid, which remains after the inflammation is gone, and presents a large red fleshy mass, without much sensibility, the nitrate of silver in substance may be freely used. A few applications of it daily, or every second day, soon remove the swelling and restore the lid to its natural position.

There are, in short, two points to bear in mind in treating purulent ophthalmia; first, to check inflammation by antiphlogistic means, and then to employ astringents. If we proceed on this plan, we shall prevent that chronic thickening and granulation which are so obstinate and troublesome.

The free use of powerful astringents, such as the sulphate of copper, the sub-acetate of lead, and a strong solution of nitrate of silver, has been recommended in the very commencement of purulent inflammation, to cut short the complaint. We do not often see cases early enough for this mode of proceeding, of which, indeed, I have no experience. I should be almost afraid to try it; and indeed very little inclined to make the experiment, because the means already described deserve entire confidence.—*Mr Lawrence.*

DROPSY.—We see in a recent English journal, a minute relation of a case of ascites, by Mr H. A. Osgood, a Surgeon of Douglas, in the Isle of Man, in which the abdominal dropsy is said to be “enormous, measuring nearly sixty feet in circumference!!!” Tell this in Mancks, but publish it not in the language of our country.

YELLOW FEVER AT MOBILE.—Accounts from New-Orleans are to the 20th ult. An arrival there in two days from Mobile, stated that the yellow fever raged immoderately at that place, and that the greater part of the inhabitants had left the city for the country.

Two deaths by yellow fever had occurred in N. Orleans on the 3d ult.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Abscess, 1—Consumption, 5—Cholera Infantum, 2—Childbed, 1—Canker, 1—Cholera Morbus, 1—Dysentery, 4—Dropsy, 3—Dropsy in the Head, 3—Drowned, 1—Fits, 2—Fever, 1—Liver Complaint, 1—Ossification of the Heart, 1—Unknown, 6.

Materia Medica.

THE following are the general outlines of the Materia Medica of the United States, which has been written by WILLIAM ZOLICKOFFER, M. D. &c. &c. and which will, without any farther delay, be published in the month of September. The cause of its not having emanated from the press last fall, may be attributed to the intention that the author had in view, of enlarging it, in order, if possible, to render it more useful and acceptable. The work alluded to will contain 240 pages, octavo, instead of 180, as was formerly contemplated. It will, therefore, be perceived, that the matter con-

tained therein has been increased in consequence of the delay.

CHAPTER 1. Treats of the improvements of the Materia Medica.—**2.** Modus Operandi of Medicines.—**3.** Classification of Medicines.

DIVISION 1—Chapter 4. Treats of Narcotics.—**5.** Antispasmodics.—**6.** Tonics.—**7.** Astringents. The four last chapters are included in the first division of general stimulants.

DIVISION 2—Chapter 8. Treats of Emetics.—**9.** Cathartics.—**10.** Emmenagogues.—**11.** Diuretics.—**12.** Diaphoretics.—**13.** Expectorants.—**14.** Sialagogues.—**15.** Errhines.—**16.** Epispastics.—**17.** Escharotics. The chapters included in the second division are such as treat of local stimulants.

DIVISION 3—Chapter 18. Treats of Refrigerents. The articles that are introduced in this division belong to the chemical remedies,

DIVISION 4—Chapter 19. Treats of Demulcents.—**20.** Anthelmintics. These two last belong to the mechanical remedies. The classes of Antacids, Lithontriptics, Diluents, and Emollients, have been omitted, from the circumstance of their not being materials that properly belong to these classes.

The price of the work will be two dollars.

DR. A. G. HULL'S PATENT HINGE TRUSS.

THE great desideratum in all improvements of mechanical instruments, is to make a paramount combination of simplicity of structure and facility of effect.

The Patentee respectfully invites the attention of all persons versed in the surgical anatomy of the parts concerned, to the following exposition of the distinctive merits of the Truss.

Firstly. The concave internal surface of the rupture pad; from its pressure being greatest at the circumference, tends constantly to approximate the hernial parietes, affording them rest and mechanical support.

Secondly. The combined hinge and pivot mode of connection between the spring and pad, by means of a tenon and mortice so constructed as to preserve a double hinge and limited joint, acting in every direction, thereby securing the uniform pressure of the spring on the pad, and sustaining the same nice coaptation of the pad and rupture opening, as well under the varied ordinary desultory muscular

actions, as when the body is in a recumbent posture.

Thirdly.—The graduating power and fixture of the pad to the spring, rendering, as will be readily perceived, the position of the pad perfectly controllable, even to perfect minuteness. Also resulting from this mechanism, is the advantage of accommodating a large truss to a small person: hence the facility of supplying without disappointment, persons at a great distance.

Fourthly.—The Double Inguinal Truss; being simply the addition of another pad, attached to a short elastic metallic plate; this plate with its pad moves on the main spring by the same power of adjustment and fixture as the first pad, the pressure of the pads being graduated at pleasure by an intervening cork wedge.

Thus, dismissing all the complicated mechanism of straps, belts and spiral springs hitherto used, and but too often ineffectually used, is this distressing class of hernia managed with the same ease and certainty of success as the single rupture!

In the investigation of the virtues of this instrument, it is with the utmost assurance that we advert to several years successful experiment, the only true basis for assertion:—

And hence the Patentee hesitates not to affirm, that, in combining its qualities, such advantage has been taken of mechanical principles, as to leave neither necessity nor possibility of improvement. Late accounts from professional men, as well as my numerous agents, together with my own experience, warrant the highly interesting and auspicious conclusion, that the complete cures which are effected on persons from 40 to 75 years of age—may with safety be computed at an average of 1 in 3
—AND UNIVERSALLY ON CHILDREN!

The Patentee is truly gratified that the success of his Truss has given them an introduction to the navy and army of the United States. The approval and recommendation to general use by the Medical Societies of the state of New York, and by many of the most respectable Medical Institutions, as well as medical practitioners in this and most other states, should be sufficient.

The above Truss is sold by EBENEZER WIGHT, Druggist, Milk, opposite Federal Street—where may be had a general assortment of genuine Drugs and Medicines.

Boston, July 25th.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1826.

NO. 14.

To the Ed. of the Med. Intelligencer.

SIR—As every thing like improvement in either of the departments of Medicine, deserves publicity, I am induced to send you, for the Intelligencer, a short notice of what I consider as an improved method of teaching Myology.

The skeletons designed for the study of the muscles being cleared of their oil, are painted over with a white ground, made with white lead and a very minute proportion of Prussian blue mixed with boiled oil and Copal varnish. Two coats at least, of white, are necessary for a good ground. Upon this ground, the precise surfaces corresponding with the different muscular attachments are painted in strong colours, the origin and insertion of any muscle being marked with the same colour.

Besides the bones thus painted, preparations are made of the muscles dissected from each other, dried and painted in colours corresponding with the coloured patches on the skeletons.

The colours employed, are,
Deep red, Light green,
Light red, Deep blue or Indigo,
Dull red, Light blue or Azure,
Deep orange, Purple,
Light do., Dark brown,
Yellow, Light do.,
Deep green, Ash.

It may seem that this list of colours is too small to prevent confusion from the frequent repetition of them in their application to the muscles. On trial, however, it has been found to be nearly or quite as large as is compatible with distinctness, especially when the painted bones or muscles are viewed at the distance of se-

veral feet as is often necessary in a lecture room; and even the necessary reiteration of a few strong and distinct colours is attended with less inconvenience than a large variety, the hues of which must approximate each other, the difficulty of distinguishing them increasing as their number is multiplied.

With a skeleton thus painted, while going over with his Osteology, the student obtains a permanent knowledge of a very large number of muscular attachments; and when the dissected and painted muscles come to be studied, an almost indelible acquaintance with their connections, their position in relation to each other, and to the blood-vessels and nerves, if these textures are preserved as they ought to be, is soon acquired.

For the last three years I have taught myology to the summer classes, exclusively upon this apparatus; and in the lectures in autumn and winter, have made constant use of it joined with recent dissections. With these facilities, I am confident that the labour of acquiring a knowledge of the muscles is greatly diminished. Several of our students, who, previous to their coming here, had paid considerable attention to anatomy, have expressed their full conviction that the labour is reduced more than one half from that which is ordinarily necessary. It is true that dissections indefatigably pursued, will give a more accurate knowledge of all the soft textures, than dried preparations; but when it is recollecting that a large proportion of students who attend lectures cannot or do not avail themselves of the benefit of

private dissections, when it is borne in mind that dried preparations of the blood-vessels have long been found of unspeakable advantage to the student, and that a good knowledge of the muscles is essential to an acquaintance with those very important textures, the blood-vessels and nerves,—it will not be denied that this method promises much in one of the most important and laborious departments of anatomical study.

I will here remark that the same method adopted with the nerves, will be found exceedingly useful. The dried and painted nerves, like the coloured muscles, catch the eye and make an impression; and soon the colour of a particular nerve becomes associated with the parts to which it is distributed. On these preparations, I find, that even the complicated nerves of the head and trunk, admit of comparatively easy and distinct demonstration, and I consider them as altogether preferable to wet preparations for students who do not enjoy great facilities for private dissections.

Yours, &c.
R. D. MUSSEY.

*Dartmouth College,
Hanover N. H. Aug. 3, 1826.*

PHYSIC AND SURGERY.

When Daguessau was High Chancellor of France, a severe law-suit was carried on between the physicians and surgeons. M. Peyronie pleaded ably, and requested the chancellor to order a high wall to be built between the hospitals of the two contending parties. "But if we do build the wall," said the chancellor, "on which side of it shall we place the sick?" However much the practice of Physic and Surgery are nominally separated, there is a connection between them which depends on causes beyond our influence, and a dissolution of which therefore must resist our strongest efforts. A large proportion of the diseases we are heirs to, require some knowledge of both the branches of the profession. A great

majority of those local diseases which demand apparently the exclusive aid of the surgeon, either arise from constitutional causes which a knowledge of medicine must detect and remove, or they produce a febrile or otherwise disordered state of the system, which of right falls to the care of the Physician; so that no man can be a good surgeon unless he is also a physician, and the practice of medicine cannot be intelligibly or even safely pursued, without a good knowledge of the principles and practice of surgery. This connection depends on the nature of diseases, and as Nature must be our guide, nothing can be more absurd than this artificial division. Even in those countries where the two branches of the profession are practised by different classes of men, where the distinction is recognized in the laws of the land, and each family has a physician and a surgeon who have never met, perhaps, or seen each other, the separation is not in reality so entire as we are apt to suppose. It is one thing to be exclusively a surgeon and to refuse in all cases to practice medicine, and another to be principally devoted to the one, and although familiar with the other, to avoid its indiscriminate practice. This in fact, is as far as the distinction is carried or can be carried in any country; and we are inclined to believe that, although this distinction does not nominally exist among ourselves, and is not known in our laws, it is, in reality, nearly as great as in England.

Look around us. Look to our cities. We find in some, three or four, and in others but one or two, who pretend to perform a surgical operation; who even desire such practice, or of whom any person requiring such aid would pretend to seek it. The great body of the profession are engaged in the practice of medicine, seek to be eminent in that alone, and although they would be sorry to have it said (and perhaps it could not be justly) that they are incapable of such operation, yet they voluntarily send for Dr A. or Dr B. to perform it, rather than take the responsibility on their own shoulders. Look now

to the country. Not a village but has more physicians than its practice can support;* yet we find but occasionally an individual who attempts operations of any importance. The surgeon rides to every village within twenty and sometimes fifty miles, as occasion requires, and more perhaps than in town, confines himself to surgery. Yet is he at all times more or less engaged in the practice of physic, and each medical gentleman who sends miles for him and his instruments, is well educated in all the departments of his profession. Almost every practitioner, in city and country, has the ability, in case his services should be required, to cure a fever or extirpate a tumor, to manage a case of phrenitis or perform the operation of lithotomy with credit and success. But of this indiscriminate practice he is not in the habit. Circumstances have not led to it—his taste has forbidden it; and as Physic is a profession in which no one can be eminent without an ardent love of it, it is best that each should practise *chiefly* that branch to which his inclination leads him and which he can study and practise with enthusiasm and delight.

In another point of view a distinction to the extent which exists among us is highly desirable. It is universally allowed that by books alone no man can make himself a good practitioner. The more cases that fall to his care, the more light he acquires on his profession, and the better is he enabled to treat those which come after. If in a community where medical men are so numerous as among us, each was to engage with equal activity in every branch of the profession, his

experience in any one would be very limited, and so also would his skill. By a reputation for surgical skill, cases are accumulated at his hands, and he becomes in reality much better able to manage them than any one would have been if a different order of things prevailed. So also when certain individuals attend *chiefly* to the practice of medicine. Distinctions of this kind we cannot object to, they are favourable to the cultivation of professional talent, they render to each one his labours more agreeable, they afford fruitful sources of information, and are infinitely for the good of the public, who are served by those who can serve them ably, instead of by half educated, and comparatively inexperienced practitioners.

The same reasoning will apply to an order of things which seems to be prevailing among us of late years.—We find that whilst all members of the profession qualify themselves for practising all its branches, one makes himself more particularly acquainted with diseases of the eye—another of the ear—another of the skin—and so on. By this system, cases of each denomination accumulate in the practice of him who acquires distinction for their treatment, and he is not only thus furnished with means of constant and rapid improvement, but, from the taste which directed him to his particular branch, and from his reputation in it, he is led to notice each case with greater minuteness than would an ordinary practitioner, and to manage it with more wisdom and success.

But for a person to profess to be a surgeon only, without a knowledge of Physic, or a physician without the ability to practise Surgery, is in itself the height of absurdity; it is a state of things which cannot exist, for a person who pursued such a course could not be sufficiently acquainted with either, to be entitled to the appellation of Surgeon or Physician—far more to the confidence of the public. Still greater however is the absurdity—nay, the wickedness of him, who, without a knowledge of the anatomy of the system,

* The writer of an article, in a late number of Knapp's Monthly Magazine, entitled Memoranda of a short Tour to Maine, says that in travelling from Brunswick to Portland in the stage coach, "out of five, three of the passengers were of the profession of medicine, and were conversable and instructive." So numerous and so well educated are the faculty in this country, that go where you will you encounter and derive information from them. We cannot forbear in this place expressing our recommendation of this highly interesting and ably conducted Magazine. It very deservedly takes the lead of all similar works, in the general estimation, as well as in that of the learned.

of the great laws which govern it, of the principles of health, and the phenomena, the nature, the causes, and the treatment of diseases generally—who without even the pretension to a regular or irregular professional education, assumes the awful responsibility of treating *any* one complaint to which the body is subject. If it is of the eyes—he knows not the distinction between such an inflammation as will yield safely to local remedies, and such as the same remedies will drive back into the brain and produce a fatal malady of that delicate structure. If it be of the skin, he is ignorant in what state of the system an eruption is the *source* of evil, and in what it is a salutary effort of nature to relieve internal oppression—he knows not in what particular cases his washes and unguents would afford relief, and in what ones they would remove the disease to the stomach, the lungs, or the brain, and produce dyspepsia, consumption, or worse than either, mental alienation. If it be, in fact, of any one part of the system, he is ignorant of its bearings on any other part, or its relation to the general constitution.

Whilst, therefore, we would applaud the practice, among regularly educated members of our profession, of devoting themselves more particularly to physic or surgery, or to one class of diseases, whilst they qualify themselves at all times for intelligent and skilful practice in all, we must consider it but one remove from quackery to pretend to practise any one branch of the profession without a knowledge of every other.

APOPLEXY.

A gentleman of a full habit and about 58 years of age, being suddenly affected with giddiness and other symptoms of impending apoplexy, sent his servant to his family physician to request his *immediate* attendance. The doctor, highly to his credit, hastened to his friend, and after feeling his pulse and examining the tongue, observed to his wife, “he must *immediately* lose blood; and if

you will allow me, I will send to Mr ——, a very clever surgeon and an excellent bleeder, to perform the operation.” “By all means,” replied the lady; “I will immediately send my servant to him.” The Doctor very politely, and with great philosophical coolness, wrote a note to his friend, the clever surgeon, to request him to come to him immediately to bleed a patient. After waiting upwards of an hour, the lady observed, “I think, doctor, my husband is altering for the worse. If you think there is any risk in delaying the operation, I shall be *greatly obliged to you to perform it.*” “Oh, Madam,” replied the doctor, with an elongated countenance, “PHYSICIANS NEVER bleed.” “I thought,” observed the lady, “as you once practised surgery, you would have descended to bleed an old friend in a case of such a nature.” “Being a physician,” said the doctor, “it would subject me to the censure of all my brethren, and derogate from their dignity. Don’t be uneasy, my dear Madam, Mr ——, a very clever surgeon, will no doubt be here in a few minutes, and so short a delay cannot possibly be of any consequence in the case of your husband. Trust to me, my dear Madam, (putting his right hand on her left shoulder) trust to me, I never have nor never will deceive you. About 25 minutes after this conversation, the clever surgeon arrived with a lancet. The doctor, after shaking him very cordially by the hand, apparently glad of an opportunity of serving him, accompanied him to the patient.

They found him lying on his left side, apparently in a sound sleep. The Doctor, taking up his right hand, asked him “how he felt himself.” The patient making no reply, he desired the surgeon to place him on his back. It was now evident that apoplexy had taken place. The surgeon opened a vein in the right arm, but a few drops of blood only escaped. He then opened the left

temporal artery, but no blood followed, and in about three minutes the patient breathed his last!!! Had the physician bled the patient on his arrival, he might have prevented the effusion of blood which terminated his existence. This patient, we have no hesitation in saying, very probably lost his life by the delay of bleeding, merely from a desire of the physician to serve a surgeon, who on all occasions had recommended him as a physician. The most distressing part of the case to the physician and surgeon is to come. The widow was so much afflicted by the sudden fatal termination of the complaint, that she neglected to present them with a fee. In justice to the would-be legitimate physicians of Worcester, we must observe, this case did not occur within one hundred miles of that city. The physician had practised surgery nearly twenty years, during which time he had bled many hundred people.

The Doctor's refusing to bleed on account of becoming a physician, reminds us of the refusal of a student of Cambridge to assist another student who was upset in the river Cam, and struggling to reach the bank, because he had not been introduced to him. It has been from time immemorial a custom at this celebrated school of "good living," for a student, *when sober*, not to speak to another, unless he had been *properly* introduced to him; and when a student is incapable of walking, in consequence of his brain being overloaded with *Classic lore* (*of course,*) a Fellow Commoner would be deemed guilty of a great breach of etiquette, if he were to give him any assistance, unless he himself happens to be half seas over, which *of course* is rarely the case in Cambridge.

The above case of apoplexy shows the absurdity of separating the practice of physic from surgery, and the contemptible quackery of what is termed legitimate medicine.

English Journal.

BLEEDING FROM THE NOSE.

Bleeding from the nose may frequently be restrained by position, by diminishing the quantity of blood in the system by a speedy abstraction from a free orifice, and by direct application of cold or styptic substances to the surface from which the blood is poured out. If these means fail, the plugging of the back part of the nostril must be resorted to; and although this will seldom be required when the previous measures have been judiciously employed, yet it may happen that the patient may be so far exhausted before assistance be obtained, as to render the immediate employment of this remedy necessary. The means of performing this operation are very simple; a catheter, or bougie curved, so that when passed along the nostril and carried onward its point may be seen behind the soft palate; a thread, or ligature, tightly affixed to the end of the instrument; a pair of dressing forceps; and a piece of soft sponge, cut to the required size, to serve as a compress when introduced. The operation consists in passing the instrument with the ligature attached, through the lower part of the nostril, till the point appear behind and below the soft palate; this will be facilitated by inclining the head backwards; then take hold of the end of the ligature, bring it out of the mouth, and withdraw the instrument from the nostril; affix the sponge to the ligature, which will conduct it, by drawing the end at the anterior nostril, to its proper situation. The entrance of the sponge into the posterior aperture may be known by a slightly increased resistance; if properly adjusted, the cessation of bleeding is the immediate result. With reference to the removal of the sponge, it is well to leave the outer end of the ligature sufficiently long that it may be passed through a catheter, which will be found the best means of removing the sponge.

The compress should not be allowed to remain beyond the third or fourth day, and should be removed by pressing it gently backwards by a catheter or bougie,

till a part of it may be seen and laid hold of by the forceps introduced by the mouth. The principal occasional difficulty relating to this operation, results from the unsteadiness of the patient. When the patient is steady, a very few minutes will suffice to complete it.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

Debate on Transfusion.—Mr Field, (the Registrar) begged to call the attention of the Society, to the case of *transfusion*, related by Mr Doubleday.

Mr Doubleday entered again into the relation of the case. In reply to a question, he said he had seen four cases of *transfusion*, and that it had failed in one only; and which he attributed to the great loss of time, and bad supply of blood.

Dr Davis begged to observe, he knew nothing of the operation practically; what he had heard of it, was from the published accounts of the cases, and the reports of the meetings of this society. He was happy to concur with those gentlemen who advocated *transfusion*, in the belief that it would be found an operation which might be resorted to with great advantage, in these truly alarming cases. He (Dr D.) must confess, he was not satisfied with the arguments which had been urged against the operation. It had been said that the operation was an old one. It might be so. He did not care whether it was or was not an old operation. He saw no reason why an operation which had failed in the hands of practitioners a hundred years ago should not, in the present improved state of the medical profession, be found to succeed. Another argument, which had been brought against the question, was, that if a woman survived six hours after the cessation of uterine haemorrhage, she might then be considered as free from danger, (at least from this cause,) and, therefore, that in those cases in which the operation of *transfusion* had been performed, the chances were more than proba-

ble, that the woman would have recovered if nothing had been done. Now he (Dr D.) begged to say, that a woman was not out of danger even when several days had elapsed. Very lately he had been consulted in a case of uterine haemorrhage which did not terminate fatally till the fifth day after the cessation of the haemorrhage. Every one must allow that the transfusing of blood was a remedy of great importance; and the first thing to be looked to, was, whether it was free from danger. If it was, why not employ it? What objection could be made against it? He felt pleasure in believing from all that he had read and heard on the subject that it had, already, been productive of great benefit, and if further trials should confirm the perfect safety of the practice, it was his (Dr D.'s) opinion, that it should be resorted to in all desperate cases of uterine haemorrhage, as a remedy of great power, which, as far as has been hitherto proved, tends greatly to the advantage of the patient; removing her at once from a case of extreme danger to one of comparative safety. And he looked forward with great hopes, that the operation would be found to answer all the expectations which had been formed of it; at least, if not all, nearly so.

Dr Shearman then asked, from whence the haemorrhage arose?—Mr Doubleday then answered, by saying it was from a partial separation of the placenta.

Dr S. then stated an objection which had been made by him on a former evening, namely, how the introduction of venous blood into the right side of the heart, (already gorged with blood,) could influence the arterial system? “There is,” said Dr S., “no shutting one’s eyes to facts, but I wish for a physiological explanation.”

Mr Doubleday said, whatever might be the objection urged against the operation, the facts of the cases

were before the Society. He (Mr D.) believed, that if the vital spark was very nearly extinct, and blood was transfused too quickly, that it would be immediately fatal. He was led to this belief from experiments made upon horses. In the last case of transfusion, which he had laid before the Society, this supposition had been acted upon, and the injection of five syringes full of blood had occupied an hour.

Dr Davis (in reply to Dr Shearman) observed, that when the operation of transfusion was performed, the circulation was not at a standstill, as Dr S. had presumed. If it was, then undoubtedly the operation would be worse than useless.

Mr Lloyd contended, that the operation was not free from danger. He quoted the opinions of the late Dr Clarke, and the present Mr Clarke, that no woman would die from uterine haemorrhage, if she had survived six hours after its cessation. This was the case with haemorrhages from other parts of the body.

Dr Davis in reply stated, he knew a midwifery lecturer who for many years taught, that no woman would die from uterine haemorrhage, if proper means were resorted to; yet this gentleman lost his wife from this cause. He (Dr D.) would put his (Dr D.'s) opinion in competition with any man's, and he begged to say, he thought the space of twenty days was not necessarily a safeguard from death after uterine haemorrhage. The cases of uterine haemorrhage which proved fatal, were not those in which the pulse was only 50 or 60; these cases, in general, did well, although the woman might appear to be in a very fainting state. It was in those cases in which the pulse was so very quick, so hurried, that danger was to be apprehended.

MEDICINAL ABSORPTION.

A committee of the Parisian Academy of Medicine has made a report on M. Lesueur's paper relative to

his new mode of administering medicines. Cutaneous absorption is considered by M. Lesueur as, in many cases, the best method of introducing medicinal substances into the animal economy; but he thinks that instead of simple friction on the unbroken skin, the epidermis ought to be first removed by a blister; a precaution which renders the absorption certain. Fourteen detailed experiments, made before a committee, induce them to consider M. Lesueur's process capable of becoming eminently useful. Among other effects, they saw the acetate of morphine produce, in cases of chronic catarrh, cures, which the introduction of the same substance by the mouth would never have effected. One evident cause of the difference which results from M. Lesueur's mode of administering medicines is, that, by adopting it, they escape the changes to which certain substances are exposed by remaining in the stomach. A new committee, composed of five members, has been appointed by the Academy, for the purpose of repeating these interesting and important experiments.

HYDROCIANIC ACID.—A horse to whom seven drops of hydrocyanic acid were lately given for the purpose of destroying him, and who appeared in fact on the verge of death, was, to the great astonishment of the spectators, suddenly recalled to life by the administration of a drachm of the subcarbonate of ammonia.

The fifth edition of "The First Lines of the Practice of Surgery, by S. Cooper," has recently been published in London.

Erratum.—Page 85, col. 1, line 9, for "derive their nervous influence," &c., read "derive much of their nervous influence," &c.

REMEDY FOR THE EFFECTS OF DRAM DRINKING.—Whoever makes the attempt to abandon spirit drinking, will find from time to time a *rankling in the stomach*, with a sensation of sinking, coldness, and inexpressible anxiety. This may be relieved by taking often a cupful of an infusion of cloves, made by steeping about

an ounce of them in a pint of boiling water for six hours, and then straining off the liquor. In a state of torment, languor, and debility, an ounce and a half of the cascara bark (being also first bruised in a mortar,) should be added to the infusion. This mixture taken in the quantity above specified, three times a day, will be found a useful strengthener of the stomach and bowels, when they have been disordered by frequent excessand intoxication.

On Thursday last the proprietor of the collection of *Rattlesnakes*, now in exhibition in this city, was bitten in the hand by one of them. The hand began to swell immediately, and a friend cut the wound, and applied his mouth to it to extract the poison. Dr Phelps soon after arrived, and bathed the wound with olive oil, and the swelling subsided. We understood Friday that the wound is rapidly healing, and that no danger is apprehended from it. The Indians practise absorbing the virus in the manner above described, and the application of oil is strongly recommended.—*Centinel.*

APOTHECARIES.—The custom of prescribing, which is adopted in a degree by most of our apothecaries, and by many to considerable extent, has become notorious, and demands the attention of physicians. The evil is susceptible of a perfect remedy, and it is believed that the community will be quite as well served if physicians keep their business in their own hands.

NEW WORK ON THE TEETH.—Mr De lafon's new work on Extracting and Fixing the Teeth, is just published in London. It contains a description of a new patent instrument for extracting teeth, and a patent method of fixing artificial teeth. The work is illustrated by plates.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.
Brain Fever, 1—Bilious, 1—Canker, 3—Complaint of the Heart, 1—Consumption, 1—Dysentery, 4—Dropsy, 1—Dropsey in the Chest, 1—Decline, 1—Hepatitis, 1—Intemperance, 2—Infantile, 2—Teething, 1—Sudden, 1—Unknown, 2—Stillborn, 2. Males, 13—Females, 10.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

THE MEDICAL LECTURES at Hanover, N. H. will commence on Thurs-

day, the 7th of next Sept., and continue fourteen weeks, with four lectures daily.

Matriculating Ticket, 2 dolls.

Lecture Fees, 50 dolls, to be paid in the Lecture term; or the payment secured by notes with responsible endorsers.

Students, who have attended two full courses of Lectures, one of which shall have been at this Institution, may be admitted to examination for the degree of M. D. by complying with the other requisites; or may attend a third course gratis, at this institution, on the condition of being responsible for the expenses of graduation.

An arrangement has been made for conferring degrees at the close of the Lectures, and at Commencement.

A large galvanic battery, several electro-magnetic instruments, minute dissections of the cerebral nerves, mercurial injections of the most important lymphatics, and several wet preparations in the obstetrical department, have been added the last year.

Dr Dana has recently been appointed Professor at New York, but will nevertheless deliver the Chymical Lectures here this season.

D. College, Hanover, N. H. }
July, 9, 1826. }

BERKSHIRE MED. INSTITUTION.

THE course of instruction at this Institution consists of a Reading and a Lecture Term. The Lecture Term commences on the first Thursday in Sept. and continues sixteen weeks. The expenses for this term are, a matriculation ticket, 3 dollars—lecture fee for the whole course, 40 dollars—board, including washing, lodging, and room-rent, \$1,75 per week. The Reading Term commences on the first Wednesday in Feb. and continues to the last Wednesday in Aug. During this term a course of Demonstrations and Recitations in Anatomy and Surgery is given by Dr Batchelder—a course of Recitations in Theory and Practice of Physic by Dr Childs—a course of Recitations in Obstetrics, Materia Medica, Chemistry and Pharmacy, by Dr Delamatter, and in Mineralogy and Botany by a gentleman engaged for that purpose. Fee for this course, 40 dollars.

By order,
J. P. BATCHELDER, Sec'y.

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BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1826.

NO. 15.

RARE CASE OF INTUS-SUSCEPTION.

In every case of intus-susception that has hitherto been published in the Journals, there has always been some questionable part, some deficiency of description connected with it, so as to leave a doubt whether the portion of substance brought away was really intestine or a tube of lymph, secreted from the internal surface of the intestines; and this very circumstance has led some medical men to become so sceptical as to question whether such an occurrence, as that of a loss of a portion of gut, ever happened. It is, therefore, with no little gratification that we have it in our power to remove any existing scepticism on such an interesting and fortunately rare disease, by reporting the following case.

A woman about the middle period of life, had been for some time laboring under a constipation of the bowels, and she in consequence sent for her medical attendant, who on the second day of his visiting her, had his attention directed to a slight protrusion which had taken place *per anum*. From the appearance which it presented on a superficial examination, he was induced to think it was a portion of the rectum, and as no particular swelling of the parts had as yet supervened, the tumor was readily returned.

The constipation, however, continued, and in a day or two she was seized with severe symptoms of peritoneal inflammation; there was pain over the abdomen, accompanied with a continual state of nausea and sickness, so that every kind of nourishment that was taken was instantly rejected. Just about this time a pro-

trusion again recurred, and to a greater extent than at the former period; this induced the surgeon more minutely to examine the condition of the parts, for which purpose he very gently withdrew a small portion, and finding it yield very readily, he continued in this manner gradually withdrawing the gut, until one yard and three inches of intestine were brought away, and when the last portion was removed no additional force was employed. The violent and distressing symptoms which had previously harassed and tormented the patient, now, in a great measure subsided; still, however, pain was complained of in the abdominal region, and there was an occasional recurrence of nausea and sickness. A dose of castor oil was given the patient by the attendant surgeon, and to his great surprise he had the satisfaction to find on visiting her the next day that the bowels had acted for the first time since the commencement of the attack. On examining the evacuation it was found to present the appearance of a healthy and natural secretion. Small doses of sulphate of magnesia in mint water, were occasionally administered, and in a very short time the nausea and sickness subsided. The patient went on progressively improving to the eighth day, at which time the bowels had acted three or four times, and the general state of the patient was such as to induce a favourable prognosis of the case to be given.

To use the metaphorical language of John Hunter, however, "Nature took the alarm, conscious of her inability to sustain the extensive injury that had taken place, she gave up

the contest;" and at the moment when the patient appeared to be going on favourably, life ceased.

The body was examined in a most careful manner. It was found that the detached intestine was a portion of the ileum which had become intus-suscepted (if we might be allowed to use such an expression) within the colon. Violent straining attendant on the distressing symptoms under which the patient laboured, had in all probability greatly facilitated the descent of the gut. And that it did not arise from the force which was used in extracting it, is abundantly proved, from the circumstance that the solution of continuity is discoverable. An inflammatory action had taken place in the *caput coli*, which had occasioned a secretion of lymph, thus completely agglutinating the two portions of intestine together; and from this agglutinated part had the separated portion of intestine detached. The ileo-colic valve was entire. The mucous coat of the transverse arch of the colon was found to be in an inflamed state, and in two or three places small ulcerated spots were discoverable. The peritoneum was also inflamed, but not in a very remarkable degree.

There can be no doubt as to its being intestine, since the *valvulae conniventes* were very apparent, and moreover the coats of the intestine were divided, and shown. The *valvulae conniventes*, as is usual, were found to be more numerous towards that portion which was nearer the jejunum.

DEATH OF THE PRESIDENTS.

We insert with pleasure the following very just and philosophical remarks, and take this opportunity to say that we should be happy if so intelligent a correspondent as "*MEDICUS*" would favour us more frequently with his communications.—*Ed.*

For the Medical Intelligencer.

In times past, when the belief in miracles was general, and perhaps

in many cases well founded, the attempt to ascribe to a natural cause any event, not in the common routine of occurrences, would have been impious.—"A miracle, a miracle," was the favourite and almost universal exclamation when any unusual circumstance occurred—but we live in a "different dispensation" of knowledge, and believe, that no effect takes place in nature, without a natural cause. By the term *natural cause* we do not mean acting power independent of the Divine Being, but such operative principles as originate from him, and act by his established laws.

I was induced to make these remarks in consequence of the striking coincidences which occurred in the late deaths of our two venerable fellow-citizens, as exhibiting a peculiar instance of the connection between cause and effect, where from the constitution of things there is a degree of mystery which generally prevents this relation from being traced.

If we give but a moment's attention to the subject, we shall be convinced that the states of health or disease, life or death of our corporeal systems are greatly controlled by mental emotions. This is more strikingly shown in those constitutions where the activity of mind predominates over that of body—but it is exhibited in all. There are few individuals perhaps but have lost appetite, and sleep, or even been affected with pain in consequence of intense or disagreeable thought. As the distinction between the mental and bodily powers is more distinctly marked, we often see instances where the bodily strength becomes disturbed and shattered by the activity of a mind too great for its tenement; and we notice the pallid cheek and trembling hand, at the same time that the eye, the truest index of the mind, gives evidence of great mental activity. The man of great bodily powers, but (as is often the case) with

mental faculties not corresponding, is observed as old age advances to retain the strength of his material system long after the loss of memory, judgment and imagination, but this is not the case with respect to the more intellectual class of mankind. In the protracted old age of the wise and great, we see the earthly edifice mouldering and crumbling, while the mind remains like the tower of a ruined castle, erect, but threatening, if disturbed, the existence of the whole structure. Both mind and body are the subjects of periodical affections. In the body, periodical diseases in some unknown manner become habitual—the same is observed in the mind from association of ideas, and there are few observing individuals who have not noticed their health in some particular, affected by these periodical emotions. As disease or age takes from the corporeal system its vigour, it becomes less able to resist these mental movements, and the effect is more apparent. To apply these observations to the case before us, I suppose (and is the supposition unreasonable?) that Adams and Jefferson had often, at the commencement of their latter years, when the prospect of much longer life became very doubtful, wished to be permitted to live till the return of that day when they conferred glory on themselves, and happiness on a nation, without extending their wishes a moment further—and on the arrival of that day each exclaimed, nearly in the language of Simeon—"Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace." Here we are to consider two effects, of the actual existence of which, I think we can scarcely doubt. The first is the corporeal excitement occasioned by this mental anxiety—and the second is the consequent repose of mind and body, at the time the wish was found to be gratified. Before age had robbed the body of too large a portion of its vigour, the excitement alluded to, was a healthy one, i. e. the ex-

citement of mind and body corresponded, producing an harmonious and salutary animation, and the repose of mind in consequence of the gratification it had experienced, being also proportioned to the excitement, a pleasing association was established which must of necessity become habitual. Now the habit being formed, the periods must continue to recur, although the yearly increasing debility of the body, by rendering it unable to respond to the mental movements, destroyed that harmony of action, producing a jarring effect, more and more deleterious as age increased the disproportion. Finally, a period arrived when probably the mind was more powerfully excited than at any former one—but it had to act alone, and not only so, its very action committed a violence upon its enfeebled earthly companion which was fatal to their union, and when the mind reposed, it was on the ruins it had made.

MEDICUS.

New York, Aug. 19th, 1826.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

The article in your last number on *Animal Magnetism*, has induced me to send you a letter very much to the purpose, written by a great man, and containing, also, the opinion of another still greater in the department of *Natural Philosophy*, DR FRANKLIN. The physician listens with peculiar pleasure and deep interest to the thoughts of such very eminent men, because their minds are unbiased by any medical theories.

I first thought of sending only an extract; but reflecting that every word from the pen of JOHN ADAMS is, at this time, doubly precious, I send you the original letter, for you to act your judgment.

W.

A Letter from JOHN ADAMS to DR B. WATERHOUSE, on Animal Magnetism,—dated AnteUIL, near Paris, Sept. 8th, 1784.

"DEAR SIR—I received your friendly letter of the 19th June by my

dear Mrs Adams, with great pleasure, and shall ever be obliged to you for a line when you have leisure. I am very glad our University has so able a Professor of Physick, and I doubt not you will soon silence all opposition. I shall be obliged to you for your two Orations.*

"All Paris, and indeed all Europe, is at present amused with a kind of Physical New Light or Witchcraft, called *Animal Magnetism*. A German Empirick, by the name of MESMER, has turned the heads of a multitude of people. He pretends that his Art is an universal cure, and wholly supersedes the practice of Physick, and consequently your Professorship, so that you will not, I hope, become his Disciple.

"The thing is so serious that the King has thought it necessary to appoint a number of Physicians and Academicians, with your friend FRANKLIN at *their head*, to inquire into it. They are all able men, and have published a masterly Report, which shews very clearly that this Magnetism can never be useful, for the best of all possible reasons, viz. *because it does not exist*. One would think the Report sufficient to annihilate the enthusiasm, but it has not yet fully succeeded; on the contrary, it has stirred up a nest of Hornets against the Author of it, and Mesmer has the boldness to apply to Parliament by a Public Process, to have his Art examined anew. What may be the consequence I don't know: But I think the Phrenzy must evaporate.

"The Professors of the Art have acquired sometimes a surprising ascendancy over the imaginations of their Patients, so as to throw them into violent convulsions, only by a few odd gestures. All this, the Commissioners ascribe to the Imagination, and I suppose justly; but if this Faculty of the Mind can produce

such terrible effects upon the Body, I think you Physicians ought to study and teach us some method of managing and controuling it.

"I am, Sir,

"with great esteem, your

"friend and humble Servant,

"JOHN ADAMS.

"Dr Waterhouse."

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

In our last we attempted to present our readers a view of the degree in which the two great branches of the profession may be separated, and the state of this division practically among ourselves. A few words at present on the *estimated rank* of the two classes of the faculty.

Rank, in our profession, ought, as in every other, to be estimated according to the talents, industry, and usefulness of its members. Such, however, is not the case. A stupid lawyer *ranks* higher than an ingenious and upright mechanic; the wealthy proprietor ranks higher than his industrious and enterprising tenant, though the latter be infinitely above the former in point of intellect, and does more good in a month than his landlord does in a year. So the Physician who has been the favorite of blind Fortune, whose chance it has been to have extensive and influential connections to urge him onward,—or to commence practice just at the time the services of another physician were wanted,—or to be introduced into practice by an eminent father or uncle who enjoys the unbounded confidence of all and who wishes to relinquish his business,—or who has the good luck to be called in to some wealthy citizen who is suddenly and violently attacked, but happens to recover,—all, or any of these circumstances, give a man a rank in our profession wholly unconnected with his real skill or ability, and higher even than twenty or fifty others can attain to, who surpass him in genius, knowledge, industry, skill, and discernment, and every other qualification for an eminent practitioner. Neither does the compara-

* Latin Inaugural Oration, and Introductory Med. Oration.

tive standing of physicians and surgeons depend on the talents or learning of the individuals who have adopted either physic or surgery for their profession. Yet each has a rank, and we believe that of the physician is highest.

The practice of physic requires more discrimination—more thorough and extensive knowledge—more variety of learning, more insight into the hidden operations of the human machine, and the precise powers of the great medicinal agents, and more exclusively the exercise of the reasoning powers, than surgery. Manual dexterity belongs to the surgeon, and though it is the power of determining the precise state of disease and the necessity of an operation, which calls forth the higher powers of a surgeon, yet there is attached to his profession a degree of mechanical tact, which although it makes it not the less honourable, yet diminishes its rank.

Surgery seems to hold an intermediate place between Medicine and Dentistry, and although there are many who will say a surgeon is higher than a physician, yet we can assure the public that the opinion we have expressed is sanctioned by the best authorities. In England, where we should look for a decision of this question, the same sentiment prevails; and if any doubt, we beg leave to point to the following charge of the celebrated Lord Chief Justice Kenyon. Dr Chorley sued a patient for his fees, and recovered in the inferior court. The defendant appealed; and upon the second trial, a question arose, and the matter was contested somewhat warmly. The Lord Chief Justice then arose, and said:—

“ I remember a learned controversy, some years ago, as to what description of persons were intended by the Medici at Rome; and it seemed to be clearly established by Dr Mead, that by those were not meant physicians, but an *inferior* degree amongst the professors of that art, such as answer rather to the description of surgeons amongst us.

But at all events, it has been understood in this country, that the fees of a physician are honorary, and not demandable of right. And it is much more for the credit and rank of that honourable body, and, perhaps, for their benefit also, that it should be so considered. It never was yet heard of, that it was necessary to take a receipt upon such an occasion. And I much doubt whether they themselves would not altogether disclaim such a right as would place them upon a less respectable footing in society than that which they at present hold.’ The judgment was therefore arrested, and Dr Chorley gained nothing by his verdict.”

MILITARY EXERCISE.

Military exercise, whether in the performance of camp or parade duty, though accounted healthful, is generally followed by more or less indisposition, and is frequently the origin of severe diseases which may be traced to some imprudence or over exertion at these times. That which appears to be a source of the most personal inconvenience and prejudicial effects to members of training bands, is their heavy and confined dress, rendered more burdensome by their equipments and the mechanical and restrained motions of the body which are always imposed upon the soldier. The weight and colour of their caps particularly, must be extremely uncomfortable to those who but seldom make use of them, by adding greatly to the heat of the head by absorbing the rays of the sun while remaining still, or quickly exercising in a heated atmosphere. In the performance of camp duty in hot weather, men are exposed to great mischief by an imprudent use of cold water, and improper articles of food. In the sudden loss of strength and frequently of reason from taking a large quantity of cold water while the body is heated, the remedies must be active and speedily applied, or death will be the consequence even before a physician can be procured. The best

remedy which in these circumstances is likely to be at hand, is warm spirit and water freely given; the first draught may consist of equal parts of each. The body should be well rubbed with coarse cloths, and the temples chafed with spirit, the body may also be stripped and blankets dipped in hot water laid over it, removing them as often as they become cool. Cholera morbus and colic are often consequences of drinking a large quantity of water or lemonade; eating fruit, cake, &c., practices of luxury and effeminacy which, however incompatible with the character of a soldier, our young friends from habits of sociability indulge in to an injurious extent, both to themselves and their guests.

In case of an attack of cholera, (vomiting and purging), from any of these causes, it is proper to assist the vomiting by taking repeated draughts of water until the stomach is entirely emptied of its contents; it may then be gradually quieted by taking small doses of laudanum, from twenty to thirty drops, in a spoonful or two of brandy, and swallowing nothing else as long as any sickness at the stomach remains. The thirst, which is usually very urgent, may be lessened by rinsing the mouth and throat with whatever drink is most grateful. A purgative should be taken as soon as it can be made to stay on the stomach. In all cases of colic, (gripping pains, without vomiting or purging), the bowels should be evacuated of their contents by a purgative or glyster, as soon as possible; at the same time, hot applications may be made to the seat of the pain.

Wrestling, scuffling, trials of strength, and all such idle competition, frequently give rise to serious accidents. The difference in the feelings of those, the day after, who have thus foolishly exerted themselves, and of those who are contented with their own opinion of their strength, without a vain display of it, or boyish experiments upon others, one would think a sufficient admonition to prevent a second trial. We would not be

understood to speak against this kind of exercise in all cases; on the contrary, we know that wrestling, leaping, climbing, &c. tend greatly to increase health and strength; but those who are performing military duty, have enough and still more manly exercise without it. The stiffness in the joints, and soreness of the bones and flesh which succeed to unusual exercise, and taking slight cold, are readily removed by a thorough application of the hot bath.

RHEUMATIC INFLAMMATION OF THE EYE.

Although many points in the pathology of gout and rheumatism are obscure, we know that these diseases particularly affect the fibrous structures such as enter into the composition of joints, and are found in their neighbourhood, and the synovial membranes. Now when any morbid affection is the result of a particular constitutional disposition, we find that there is a tendency in all the textures of the same kind to be affected under certain circumstances; and accordingly those textures of the eye which resemble the fibrous, as the sclerotica and cornea, together with the closely connected iris, and the mucous membrane of the eye, which is analogous to the synovial membrane of the joints, are liable to take on diseased actions under the same state of constitution which gives rise to rheumatic inflammation of similar textures in other parts of the body. The urethra often participates in the affection; and a discharge like that of gonorrhœa takes place from the canal. The joints, the eyes, and the urethra may suffer together, or in succession.

Treatment.—In the affections just described, our treatment must be regulated according to the degree of inflammation; the great object being to lessen that, and to guard against its effects. Perhaps we may not deem it necessary to proceed quite so actively as in other cases; leeches or cupping are sufficient as means

of direct depletion; the use of blisters is advantageous.

If the inflammation of the iris becomes considerably alarming, it may require that treatment by mercury, which I shall have hereafter to describe. The milder forms of the affection may not demand a decided mercurial treatment, but rather such as is called alterative; and no medicine can be better for this purpose than Plummer's pill. Take blood, by cupping, from the temples, or by leeches; apply blisters, and keep them discharging by the use of the savine cerate; evacuate the bowels effectually, give Plummer's pill regularly every night, or night and morning; regulate the diet, and let the patient breathe pure air. This course will in general soon remove the complaint, or, at all events, it will check its progress. If there is reason to apprehend that serious mischief may occur to the structure of the iris or capsule, you must immediately have recourse to a more decided use of mercury.

Foreign writers, particularly the Germans, lay great stress on that peculiar state of constitution, which gives rise to these affections, and on the employment of such measures as they consider are well calculated to remove that state, rather than on the employment of means strictly antiphlogistic; and they enumerate a great variety of remedies, which they suppose to be antiarthritic, such as decoctions of bark, and other tonics, guaiacum, antimony, Dover's powder, &c. In the first place, it is very doubtful whether these remedies have any claim to be considered as specifically antiarthritic; and we know from experience that such a condition of the system is very difficult to remove. In the second place, the exclusive reliance on such measures, appears to me to be at variance with the safety of the organ, when it is laboring under active inflammation. Perhaps the mild antiphlogistic treatment which the eye may require, is the most effectual to

remove that state of the system called arthritic, or rheumatic; since we know that in many such cases, there is a condition of general plethora, or of local inflammation. One remedy introduced of late into practice, does appear to possess decided antiarthritic influence: this is the *colchicum*, and as it has been found useful in removing, or in assisting to remove, gouty inflammation from the joints, it may be made, perhaps, a useful auxiliary in these affections of the eye.

BOYLSTON PRIZES.—The Boylston Medal, or fifty dollars in money, was on the 2d inst. awarded to D. Humphreys Storer, M. D. Boston, as the author of a dissertation "On the diseases resembling Syphilis, and the best method of removing such diseases." The same was also awarded to Samuel A. Cartwright, M. D. of Natchez, Miss. as the author of the best dissertation on the question, "whether the veins perform the functions of absorption."

The public is reminded that the subjects for the prize dissertations for 1827, were the following, viz:—1. On the History of the Autumnal Fevers of New England.*—2. On Inflammation of the Perosteum, acute and chronic.

The prize questions for the year 1828 are these.—1. What are the circumstances in which the drinking of cold water in hot weather proves injurious; what are the diseases which arise from this cause; and what is the best mode of treating those diseases?—2. On the disease called an irritable state of the urinary bladder; its cause and treatment.

Each dissertation is to be accompanied with a sealed letter, on the outside of which shall be written some device or motto, and on the inside, the name and place of residence of the author. The same device or motto must be written on the dissertation, to which the letter is annexed. No dissertation will be acted upon which has the signature of the author attached to it. The dissertations must be transmitted, *post paid*, to Thomas Welsh, M. D. of Boston; those for 1827 on or before the first day of April, 1827; and those for 1828 on or before the first of April, of that year.—All unsuccessful dissertations are deposited with the Secretary from whom their authors may obtain them if applied for within one year after they have been received.

* It is expected that writers on this subject, will confine themselves to the *history* of these fevers.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.
 Brain Fever, 1—Canker, 1—Cholera Infantum, 1—Consumption, 3—Cholera Morbus, 1—Dysentery, 1—Epilitic, 1—Fits, 1—Intemperance, 1—Infantile, 1—Lumbar Abscess, 1—Measles, 1—Old Age, 2—Spasms, 1—Worms, 1—Unknown, 4—Stillborn, 1. Males, 15—Females, 7.

MEDICAL SCHOOL IN BOSTON.

THE LECTURES at the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL COLLEGE, in BOSTON, will commence on the third Wednesday in November.

Anat. and Surg. by DR WARREN.

Chemistry, by DR GORHAM.

Midwifery and Med. Jurisprud. by DR CHANNING.

Materia Medica, by DR BIGELOW.

Theory and Practice of Physic, by DR JACKSON.

The advantages for attending Hospital practice at this Institution, are considered equal to those afforded in any city of the United States.

BERKSHIRE MED. INSTITUTION.

THE course of instruction at this Institution consists of a Reading and a Lecture Term. The Lecture Term commences on the first Thursday in Sept. and continues sixteen weeks. The expenses for this term are, a matriculation ticket, 3 dollars—lecture fee for the whole course, 40 dollars—board, including washing, lodging, and room-rent, \$1.75 per week. The Reading Term commences on the first Wednesday in Feb. and continues to the last Wednesday in Aug. During this term a course of Demonstrations and Recitations in Anatomy and Surgery is given by Dr Batchelder—a course of Recitations in Theory and Practice of Physic by Dr Childs—a course of Recitations in Obstetrics, Materia Medica, Chemistry and Pharmacy, by Dr Delamatter, and in Mineralogy and Botany by a gentleman engaged for that purpose. Fee for this course, 40 dollars.

By order,

J. P. BATCHELDER, Sec'y.

Vaccination.

THE undersigned devotes his professional time chiefly to the business of Vaccination, and to the preservation of the genuine vaccine matter for the use of others.

Physicians will be regularly supplied with matter for any period of time they may agree for, not less than six years, for an annual fee of 5 dollars payable in advance.

Tickets will also be issued from this Institution that will entitle any Physician or other citizen of the United States, to vaccine matter, on the following terms, viz: *Private Tickets* at ten dollars each, that will entitle the holders of the same to fresh matter as often as they may have occasion to use it for three years; and *Public Tickets* at thirty dollars each, that will entitle all persons residing in the neighbourhood of any particular Post Office (large towns and cities excepted) to the same privilege for a like period of time. Private Tickets are to be held by the purchasers themselves and for their own use; and Public Tickets by the Post Masters through whose particular offices all applications for matter forwarded must be made.—Surgeons of the Army and Navy of the U. S. will be furnished with genuine vaccine matter at all times, free of any expense.

All the privileges of this Institution and advantages heretofore offered to Physicians and others, will be secured to them agreeably to their respective engagements with the undersigned.

No letter addressed to the undersigned will be received at any time unless the Postage thereon is paid.

Vaccine Institution,
Baltimore, 16th Sept. 1825.

JAMES SMITH.

 The introduction of the Small-Pox into North Carolina about four years since, and which occasioned the repeal of the Law "to encourage Vaccination," was not the result of any mistake made by Dr Smith, as he was at first induced to believe. It has since been discovered and shown that this fatal occurrence is to be attributed entirely to a wicked trick, that was unsuspected at the time, and could not have been guarded against by any person. For a more full account of it, however, the reader who feels interested is referred to a letter addressed by Dr Smith, 3d February, 1824, to Mr Clay, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to a subsequent report of a Committee in Congress to whom it was referred. This report exculpates Dr Smith from all blame, and recommends the adoption of his entire plan for the general distribution of the vaccine matter.

Sept. 27.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1826.

NO. 16.

PAPERS OF THE N. H. MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Large Doses of Croton Oil.

The following very interesting case was furnished to one of the publishing committee by Dr Ezra Bartlett, of Haverhill, N. H. Coming from such high authority, the correctness of the statements may be fully relied on.

John Clay was taken ill with colic on Monday, the 13th of March, 1826, and among other things took mustard seed, but had nothing pass the bowels on that day.

Tuesday noon he sent for a physician, and took, on that day, repeated doses of calomel and jalap, castor oil, salts, and senna; had numerous injections, was bled twice, and had the abdomen vesicated. He got no relief, puked frequently, had hiccough, pulse eighty.

Wednesday, at 6, P. M. I saw him, and gave two drops of croton oil, at 8 o'clock two more, at 11 o'clock three more, at 1 o'clock, Thursday morning, five more, at 3 o'clock six more, at 6 o'clock seven more, making twenty-five drops in thirteen hours. He was bled again 18 oz., and among a number of injections took two of tobacco, which produced fainting and cold sweat. Left him with directions to go into the warm bath, and continue the croton oil once in two hours. His pulse at this time was 120, and soft, the pain gradually abating. At 8 o'clock he came out of the warm bath, and took six drops more of the croton oil; occasional hiccough. At 9 o'clock there was a small movement of the bowels, and some mustard seed was found in the urine.

From this time frequent foetid dejections took place, so that from 9

o'clock Thursday morning to 5 o'clock Friday morning, being twenty hours, he had at least one hundred evacuations from the bowels. He was soon convalescent; he had a relapse, was bled, took about ten drops of croton oil, and recovered. The croton oil was genuine.

July, 1826.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY.

Besides the Transylvania University, of which she is justly proud, Kentucky possesses another institution which adds much to the respectability of its Medical Literature. This is the "Medical Society," established in Lexington, and which is, in fact, a branch of the University. Since its establishment its presiding officer has been elected, with, perhaps, one or two exceptions, from the Medical department of the College; and this circumstance, together with the regular attendance of the Professors, and of other distinguished scientific gentlemen of the town, and their frequent participation in its debates, render it to students of medicine, a place of great interest and improvement. We consider the Society a highly useful and important appendage to the University; deserving the particular patronage and attention, both of the state, the pupils, and the Professors. By making a part of their literary exercises, during the latter period of their pupilage, to consist in waiting upon its meetings, and engaging in its discussions, we have no hesitation in believing that students would be more richly rewarded than by hearing all the lectures of the School.

"True ease" and felicity in speaking, no less than "in writing," as well as correctness, force, and originality of thought are the result, not of "chance" but of assiduous, patient and persevering labour. To engage successfully in the gymnastic exercises of the body, it is necessary first to wrestle, and acquire the command of the muscles, and the intellectual palaistra is equally essential to the acquirement of mental energy and expertness.

As yet, the Society has not given the public the result of its investigation on any of the numerous important subjects which have been before it. This has not been because they were deemed unworthy of publication, but because the West afforded no vehicle suitable for their communication. We would express a hope that the Society will not much longer neglect to introduce itself, favorably, as it must do, to public attention, in some one of the popular Journals of the East.

At the last annual Election of Officers for the Society, Professor Dudley was chosen President, and Lunsford P. Yandell, M. D. Vice President, for the ensuing year.

A SUBSCRIBER.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

Whilst the Academy of Medicine (Paris) was discussing the question, to know if animal magnetism was a reality or chimera, if it presented advantages or dangers, the magnetizers were pursuing the tenor of their way, and treating every one who put faith in their pretended remedy. That the favoured children of Aesculapius should lose some of their practice, is a misfortune with which they must console themselves; but that society should be deprived of one of its members by the audacious ignorance of Messieurs or Mesdames, the somnambulists, is too serious an affair to be passed by unnoticed and unpunished. It was on

this account (the destruction of a patient under her care) that Madame Fructus was summoned to appear before the tribunal of justice.

Our somnambulist had contrived to gain the confidence of the countess of P——, who conceived that she had been properly treated by her. On the 23d of October last, the daughter, a girl of sixteen, was taken ill; she was seized with continued vomiting, and a severe cutaneous eruption. Madame Fructus was called, who charmed the patient to sleep, and ordered for her ipecacuanha, which, on her awaking, she administered herself. This drug having produced no good effect, some consultation took place. The somnambulist prescribed in succession emollient cataplasms, and the application of a recent lamb's-skin. In short, at the end of three days, convulsions came on, and whilst Madam Fructus was assuring the relation that these motions were the approach of a favourable crisis, the young lady expired.

An action was brought by the friends against this female magnetizer, and on the 27th of April the case was heard. Madam F. was accused—

1. Of having practised medicine without proper authorization.
2. Of having extorted different sums by fraudulent means.
3. Of having committed by an act of imprudence an unintentional homicide.

The accused appeared before the court in a neat but elegant dress; she is 28 years of age, and of a beautiful figure.

Q. You have practised the healing art? R. No Sir, (a laugh.)

Q. But you prescribe remedies for persons who consult you? R. I do not recollect in my awake, of what I have said and done in the state of somnambulism.

Q. But when awake you can distinguish if a person is slightly indisposed, or if his state is a dangerous

one? R. I have never made these remarks.

M. the President—You see that I am in good health? R. Yes, in all appearance. (*Laugh.*)

Q. Well, if you saw any one with the skin burning hot and covered with eruption, would you take him to be ill? R. Certainly, Sir.

Q. Nevertheless, you saw Mademoiselle P. in this situation, and you did not advise a physician to be called in? R. On the contrary, I gave this advice, but the young lady would not listen to it.

Q. But at the last moment you pretended that the young lady was experiencing a favourable crisis? R. I don't know what I might have said when asleep.

Q. Can you put yourself to sleep? R. Yes Sir.

Q. Have you need of any preparation for this? Yes Sir, I make use of a magnetized ring; moreover, Sir, my husband magnetizes me every night, or at least as often as he can.—(Here the court burst into a fit of laughter, and many a person present, we have no doubt, envied the husband's condition.)

Several witnesses were called, some of whom spoke in favour of animal magnetism, and others against it; but the court sentenced her to six months' imprisonment, and fined her in 25*l.* and costs.—*Gazette de Santé, May.*

MEMOIR ON THE KIRRONOSIS.*

By J. F. LOBSTEIN, Professor to the Faculty of Medicine at Strasbourg. *Rapport d'Anatomie et Physiologie, March, 1826.*

I term *kirronosis* a disease of the embryo and of the foetus, in which the serous or transparent membranes are tinged with a fine yellow colour. It is an internal jaundice, if the term can be used, of the peritoneum, pleura, pericardium and arachnoid, but

which differs from jaundice, properly so called, in so far as it leaves untouched the parenchymatous cellular tissue of the organs, that which is under the skin as well as the skin itself, the ordinary seat of jaundice. The first time that I discovered this disease, it was in two embryos, each five months old, and the peritoneum in both was intensely yellow. The part covering the posterior surface of the abdominal parietes was the most highly coloured. The peritoneum covering the viscera and the intestines was coloured in a less degree. In one the pleura, pericardium, surface of the heart, dura mater and arachnoid membrane also possessed the deep yellow colour. These are two cases which I have mentioned in the first number of the *Rapports sur les travaux exécutés à l'amphithéâtre d'anatomie de la faculté de médecine de Strasbourg, p. 26, ed. in 4to.* Since that time I have met with a case of twins in which this disease existed in a high degree.

I was of opinion that the yellowness was confined to the serous membrane alone, till on examining the nervous system in its successive development in some embryos, I was surprised to observe that the spinal marrow, not only in its coverings but also in the substance, had this colour very distinct. In three cases I also found the sympathetic similarly affected.

The yellowness of the serous membranes, and the nervous pulp, is not the effect of colouring from a foreign substance, for it is impossible to deprive them of their appearance by ablution, or by infusion in water or alcohol. In fact, I am unable to mention any cause by which it can be explained.

INTELLIGENCE FROM THE WEST.

We publish to-day an article of some interest from Kentucky, relating to the present state of medical police in that region. It is highly gratifying to receive

* From two Greek words, signifying yellow and disease.

favorable reports of the progress of a department of knowledge to which we are devoted, and which so directly affects the moral as well as the physical good of society. The existence of any thing like order, whether in religion, literature or politics, has been, till lately, but in a small degree realized among our brethren west of the Alleghany; and we will not allow this occasion to escape us without wishing them much happiness in the enjoyment of the new state of things that seems about to take place. The progress of knowledge and refinement in the western states forcibly illustrates the doctrine, as does the history of all new countries, that intellectual improvement must precede and prepare the way for moral, and that it is in vain to expect the fruits of the latter in great abundance before the soil has been enriched by an assiduous cultivation of the former. Physicians, partly from their education, but more from the relation in which they stand to society, possess great facilities for inciting to and directing a spirit of inquiry among those who are within the circle of their influence. In the fearless exercise of opinion, in the establishment of useful and liberal institutions, and in the march of intellect generally, they have always been found in the front rank. Even while other sciences have remained comparatively stationary, medicine has advanced and is still advancing with rapid strides.

These remarks may be applied with great justness to the new states in the west. In some of these the profession is already organized, and associations are formed, founded on just and liberal principles, which some that are older might adopt with much advantage. Society, in fact, is here *led* by the profession, and urged onward to conditions of greater improvement. In Ohio and Kentucky, medical schools have been established, that do honour to their founders and to those who are connected with them; these may be regarded as luminaries, which though but just risen, are sources from which

light is to be carried into remote regions, and disseminated through communities yet to be formed.

Let, therefore, the young men who would undertake the high and responsible office of *physician* in these parts, avail themselves of the opportunities that are here offered, not only for becoming acquainted with the diseases peculiar to the country, but for exercising their minds and improving their talents in free discussion. This will extend their sphere of usefulness, and do much to accomplish them in the qualifications that are necessary for the performance of those offices which new communities require of the medical professor.

HOOPING COUGH.

Few diseases of children excite so much alarm and anxiety among parents as hooping cough. It is really attended with some danger; but in the ordinary cases even, the fits of coughing are productive of external appearances in the child, which, though not at all threatening to life, are calculated to call up the pity and the fears of a parent. Like hysteria—that form of hysteria which resembles convulsions, and is of so frequent occurrence among unmarried females—it carries to the mind of him who is unaccustomed to its appearance, an apprehension of immediate danger, wholly disproportionate to any real injury which the system is like to sustain.

It is an object to quiet, and still greater to prevent such an apprehension. As the disease has in some few cases proved fatal, it is still further our duty to search out the best means of relief, and, if possible, some method of cure.

Dr Goelis, an eminent Physician of Vienna, has done what few others have done before him,—given his whole attention to the diseases of children. In the course of his researches, hooping cough has not passed without notice; and he gives his unqualified preference to the following formula.—Take of the root of the deadly nightshade in fine powder, one

grain; opium, two grains; white sugar, four grains. Let them be well mixed and divided into eight powders. One of these powders may be administered night and morning, and if the disease be violent, one every three hours. Leeches to the temples or chest should precede the administration of these remedies when plethora exists. Dr G. thinks lightly of the ointment of tartarized antimony; and well he may; for the remedy seems adapted to any thing rather than this *spasmodic* affection. In cases of inflammation none think more highly of this famous unguent than ourselves, but in diseases of a spasmodic nature,—but *ridiculus est absurdas opiniones refellere*.

From experience we can say nothing of the remedy of Dr Goelis. It seems based on good principles. A medical friend, however, on whose judgment and experience we should rely with quite as much confidence as on those of any other man in the profession, informs us that he has been in the habit of using the following very judicious remedy for pertussis, and that of several hundred cases in which he has recently administered it, all his patients but one coughed but little after taking it;—it seemed a powerful palliative, and this is all we can expect to find. The one excepted commenced its use at too late a stage of the complaint. Take of sub-carbonate of potass one drachm, dissolved in seven ounces of fountain water; half a drachm of the oil of amber, and two ounces of balsam Tolu. From a tea-spoonful to a table-spoonful may be given three times a day, or pro re nata. It may be sweetened with molasses. This remedy, therefore, and change of air, (the most powerful of all) seem, combined, to promise greater relief in hooping cough than any course of treatment hitherto pursued.

CALOMEL.

Dr Macleod has published, in the Medical Journal, of which he is the editor, "the case of a female child ten months old, who took twenty-four grains of calomel at two doses."

Having symptoms strongly characteristic of effusion of serum in the ventricles of the brain, the doctor ordered 24 grains of calomel to be divided into twelve equal parts, and one to be administered every two hours. Instead of dividing it into twelve papers, the apothecary put the 24 grains into one paper. The mother having understood that the quantity was to be divided into two doses, gave one half, and, after two hours had expired, the other half. A little vomiting was produced by the first dose, and less by the second; but whether any of the medicine was brought up, the parents could not say.

Some hours after taking the last dose, the child had several copious green motions, which had the appearance of chopped parsley and water. She was at times much gripped, and although the affection was apparently removed (there being no appearance whatever of lethargy or convulsions, the expression of countenance natural, and the pupils of the eyes contracting on exposure to light,) she refused to take the breast, and ejected every thing that was introduced into the stomach. The doctor ordered two table-spoonfuls of lime water, with an equal quantity of milk, to be given three times a day, which was retained; and she soon after took the breast, and in a few days was perfectly well. It is, we think, very probable that the large dose in which the calomel was administered, through the very censurable carelessness of the apothecaries to the dispensary (query, the Westminster General Dispensary, or the Scottish Hospital?) proved more beneficial, by its purgative and nauseating effects, than the remedy would have done had it been introduced into the system by small doses, as prescribed by Dr Macleod, which would probably have produced salivation. It was fortunate for the patient, and for the apothecary, that the quantity of calomel was divided

into two doses. The late Dr Clarke was in the habit of prescribing calomel in the frightful dose of 10 to 15 grains, in the bowel complaints and convulsion of children; but his favourite chemist informed us, that he never exceeded half the quantity he ordered for infants in compounding his prescriptions.

ERYSIPelas OF THE FACE.
Antiphlogistic and Revulsive Treatment.

Several cases are mentioned of erysipelas of the face, in which the antiphlogistic treatment was successfully adopted. In these cases the opening of the saphæna produced a remarkable effect, which supports the opinion advanced some time past, that bleedings from the inferior extremities act more directly on the cerebral organs. Local bleedings ought to be employed at the same time in the generality of cases; they should be employed alone if the patient presented a small irregular pulse, and one below the natural standard. In all the patients, with one exception only, who were attacked with a true gastritis, leeches had been applied in the course of the jugular vein. But is this the most proper place? Our results appear to answer in the affirmative, nevertheless it is not admitted in principle by all authors. In the journal of M. Broussais for March 1825, there is a paper, in which the application of leeches to the neck is styled a vicious practice, which constantly produces bad consequences. In erysipelas of the face, Chaussier advised the leeches to be applied to the nostrils, because the abundant epistaxis which they occasion produces an immediate dislodgment of blood, and this appears extremely natural.—*Archives Generales.*

MENTAL ALIENATION.

M. Pinel read a paper before the Royal Academy of Medicine at Paris, in which he expresses his surprise

that the researches on this subject have hitherto been confined to the brain, and that the nervous system generally, and particularly the ganglionary system have only been regarded as parts of minor importance.

If the brain exerts a considerable influence on the diseases of other organs, these certainly extend their influence in turn to the cerebrum. And the general results of post-mortem researches show that persons who have laboured under mental alienation, lesions, either of the brain or viscera, always existed. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the state of the nervous system will, in the future examination of such cases, be more attended to.

FIFTH PAIR—NERVES OF SMELL.

Notwithstanding the objections which have been raised against M. Majendie, relative to his opinion on the mechanism of smell, as well as to the interpretation which he gave to the experiments of Mr Charles Bell on the same subject, the French experimenter does not move in the slightest form his former assertion, that the first pair of nerves is not the special seat of smell, but that the fifth pair presides essentially over that function as well as all the senses. To justify this last assertion in respect to taste, M. Majendie divided the lingual nerve in the same way, as Mr Charles Bell, below the tongue, after which no impression was made from the application of the most acrid substances.

M. Majendie has also been conducting fresh experiments to show that the optic nerve and retina are insensible to direct excitations, and that the sense of vision is transmitted to the brain by the influence of the fifth pair.

RESURRECTION.

M. Antoine Pitarro, Doctor in Medicine of the faculties of Paris, Naples, and Salernum, relates the following fact: An officer who had ta-

ken part in the Neapolitan revolution, was arrested by the orders of the celebrated Admiral Nelson, and having been transported to the island of Ischia, was there sentenced to be hung, and, after the execution, his body was deposited in a magazine. The victim was left unheeded in this place during twenty-four hours, when a young Neapolitan surgeon, well skilled in the physical sciences, passed by, and observing that there were certain signs such as to encourage a trial to bring him to life, he resolved to make it by submitting him to the galvanic pile. After making the necessary preparations he galvanized the body, and had the inexpressible joy of producing organic movement and kindling the vital flame. But alas! the admiral was informed of this extraordinary fact, which had been regarded by the inhabitants of the island as a miracle—the officer was again executed, together with the surgeon who had thus endeavoured to rescue a miserable victim!—*Gaz. de Santé*, 15th May.

IRREGULAR FORMATION OF THE UTERUS.—MM. Moreau and Gardien lately met with the following peculiarity in an otherwise well formed uterus: there was a passage from the right Fallopian tube through the thickness of the uterus, opening into the cavity of its neck. This accidental formation may, it is considered, account for instances of the produce of conception being found in the middle of the tissue of the uterus.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Bilious Fever, 1	Canker, 4	Consumption, 4
Cholera Infantum, 1	Drowned, 1	Dysentery, 7
Fistula, 1	Intemperance, 1	Infantile, 1
Mortification, 1	Old Age, 2	Typhus Fever, 2
Spasms, 1	Unknown, 1.	Males 17
		Females, 15.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.
THE Trustees have the satisfaction to announce that the Honorable the Regents of the University have filled the vacant Professorships in this Institution, and that the College will be opened on the first Monday of November next, by an Address from the President. The respec-

tive courses of Lectures in the following order, viz.

JOHN AUGUSTINE SMITH, M. D. on *Anatomy and Physiology*.

ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D. on *the Principles and Practice of Surgery*.

JAMES F. DANA, M. D. on *Chemistry*.

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D. on *the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine*.

EDWARD DELAFIELD, M. D. on *Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children*.

JOHN B. BECK, M. D. on *Materia Medica and Botany*.

The Trustees are assured that the several courses of instruction will be full and complete, and that the means of illustration will be ample.

The students who have already attended Lectures in this Institution, are notified that the changes which have taken place in the College will not deprive them of any privileges or facilities heretofore enjoyed.

In conformity with the ordinances of the Honorable the Regents, of the University, and the Laws of the State of New-York, every Student is required to attend two full courses of all the Lectures delivered in the College, before he can be admitted as a candidate for the Doctorate; unless said Student shall have attended Lectures in this College prior to the Session of 1822-3, or shall have attended one entire course of Lectures delivered in some incorporated Medical School or University.

The candidate must also have studied three years with some respectable practitioner of Medicine, and have arrived at the age of 21 years.

In announcing the new organization of the College and its first session in November next, the Board of Trustees believe that the high expectations of the Profession and the Public will be fully realized, and sustained by the distinguished reputation and talents of the several Gentlemen who have been appointed to fill the respective professorships.

By order of the Board of Trustees,
JOHN WATTS, Jr. M. D., Pres.
NICOLL H. DERING, M. D., Regist.

BERKSHIRE MED. INSTITUTION.

THE course of instruction at this Institution consists of a Reading and a Lecture Term. The Lecture Term commences on the first Thursday in Sept. and continues sixteen weeks. The expenses for this term are, a matriculation ticket, 3 dollars—lecture fee for the whole course, 40 dollars—board, including washing, lodging, and room-rent,

\$1.75 per week. The Reading Term commences on the first Wednesday in Feb. and continues to the last Wednesday in Aug. During this term a course of Demonstrations and Recitations in Anatomy and Surgery is given by Dr Batchelder—a course of Recitations in Theory and Practice of Physic by Dr Childs—a course of Recitations in Obstetrics, Materia Medica, Chemistry and Pharmacy, by Dr Delamatter, and in Mineralogy and Botany by a gentleman engaged for that purpose. Fee for this course, 40 dollars.

By order,

J. P. BATCHELDER, Sec'y.

MECKEL'S MANUAL.

PROPOSALS for publishing by Subscription a Manual of General, Descriptive, and Pathological Anatomy, by J. F. MECKEL, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Halle. Translated from the German, with additions, by A. J. L. JOURDAN and G. BRESCHET, members of the Royal Academy of Medicine at Paris, &c. Translated from the French, by G. BRADFORD, M. D.

Advertisement of the French Editors.

A work has long been desired, which should comprise all the important facts in the sciences of general, descriptive, and pathological Anatomy and Physiology. Such a work required an acquaintance with these sciences equally extensive and profound, and could not have been executed except by one of the first anatomists of the age. M. Meckel, who so worthily sustains the hereditary medical celebrity of his family, and to whom we are indebted for many other works of the first order, has not feared to undertake a work of such magnitude. His treatise of Anatomy, regarded as a classic in Germany, cannot but be received with equal favour in our own country. It is one of the most valuable productions of the school of Bichat,—of that Bichat, who has made France the envy of Europe, and to whom M. Meckel renders the noblest tribute, that talents can pay to genius, the tribute of admiration, without enthusiasm. We have endeavoured to add to the translation of the Manual every fact, with which the science has been enriched since its publication.

Paris, 1825.

The subscriber has been encouraged to undertake the translation of Professor Meckel's Manual, by the advice of gen-

tlemen of eminence in the profession, by the celebrity which this Manual has obtained in Europe, and by the consideration that the want of such a work must be continually felt by every scientific member of the profession in this country, and that there is none of the kind now existing in the English language.

G. BRADFORD.

The medical literature of this country appears to want an accurate work on anatomy, which comprehends the observations and improvements of late years. In the French language, the productions of Boyer and Bichat are to be considered admirable examples of exact description. The habits and taste of this country require a work differing from these, in its combining with anatomy an account of the uses and the diseased changes of the parts described. Such a labour has been executed in Germany, by Meckel of illustrious name, and this has been lately adopted into the French language by Messrs. Jourdan and Breschet. With these recommendations in its favour, and combining with them, as it does, the excellent qualities of the treatises of Soemmering, Boyer, Bichat, Portal, and the best English authors, a translation of the "Manual of Anatomy" of Meckel would be a very desirable, and, I doubt not, a very successful publication.

JOHN C. WARREN.

Boston, June, 1826.

Extract from a notice of the French edition of Meckel, contained in the Medico-Chirurgical Review, for July, 1825.

"This is the best work on Anatomy ever published.—Here would be an excellent book to translate."

CONDITIONS.

The translation will be printed on a new type and good paper, in three volumes, octavo, of from 600 to 650 pages each. The price to subscribers will be \$2.50 a volume, payable on delivery.

Should the subscription authorize it, the work will be put to press by the first of August, and published in the course of the ensuing winter.

Cambridge, June 1, 1826.

Subscription papers are left at the Bookstores of Messrs. Cummings, Hilliard & Co. and H. Gray, Boston, and William Hilliard, Cambridge, where gentlemen disposed to patronize the work are requested to forward their names.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, Proprietor, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St. to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid). Price two dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, two dollars and a half will be required and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 per square.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1826.

NO. 17.

ON DENTITION.

BY DR. DEWEES, OF PHILADELPHIA.

One of the most remarkable circumstances attending teething, is the variety of sympathetic affections to which it gives rise, so that from their number, and oftentimes severity, the state of the system is one of great suffering as well as oftentimes one of danger.

The calculations of the mortality of children during this period, have always appeared to me to be excessive; some making it, as Dr Arbuthnot, one in every ten,—others, one in every six. That many children die at this time must be acknowledged; but it should be recollectcd, that at this period of life, children are subject to many other complaints, to which they often fall sacrifices, besides teething. Yet I admit, that the act of teething, abstractedly considered, has sometimes severe penalties attached to it, and but too frequently disturbs the system, and calls into action many latent dispositions to disease, which otherwise might have slumbered to a more remote period, or have been finally overcome—therefore, in most instances, teething is but *indirectly* concerned in the formidable mortality of children.

Teething is often instrumental in producing death, by the condition in which the act itself places the system, by exciting fever, or by disturbing the natural functions of the alimentary canal; therefore, when the child is attacked by any acute disease, that disease is almost certain to run high in consequence of the previous condition of the system. Hence the mortality of small pox, measles, hooping cough, &c. at this

period. Yet it cannot be truly said that any disease is *necessarily* connected with the acquisition of teeth.

The same may be said of certain chronic affections, as scrofula, glandular swellings, consumption, rickets, &c. If either have been developed before this period, they are now sure to be aggravated, and the child but too frequently succumbs, or, if they have not been, they are but too often called into action.

The system at the period of teething is more irritable than the after periods of life; hence, when several teeth are advancing through the gums at once, it will suffer more than when this process is proceeding gradually on in succession, and if fever or convulsions occur at this time, or if there be a disposition to either, they may be brought into action by the consequent disturbance of the constitution.

But the teething should not be chargeable with these contingencies; since it is itself altogether a functional process, as much as the formation of the bones in other parts of the system, or of any other parts belonging to the human body.

There are two states of constitution, which may render this period one of greater suffering, or even of danger, than where neither of these obtain—namely, where there is a decided and marked feebleness; and where there is evidence of considerable nervousness or a preternatural susceptibility to stimuli, though there may be the appearance of great vigour and firmness of constitution. Now should these states not be relieved by proper medical treatment, the teething process may create much mischief by its operation

upon both the nervous and sanguiferous system.

In the first state the patient should have a pure and temperate atmosphere, both at home and abroad; strict attention to cleanliness; proper diet or nourishment, and especially that of a mother or nurse; well regulated clothing; so as not to suffer too much by the winter's cold, nor to be too much oppressed by the summer's heat; and by well directed exercise.

The other must have its excess of irritability diminished by withdrawing every thing capable of fostering it; as too uniformly a warm temperature; by the abstraction of all unnecessary stimuli from within, as that of animal food, spices, and liquors of every kind; by not sleeping too warm at night, or too long indulgence of bed in the morning; by a regular and efficient exercise; especially such as will agreeably occupy the mind, as well as employ all the muscles of the body, &c.

It is however not to be understood, that I am underrating the danger attendant upon teething; and though I am not disposed to consider teething itself a disease, I am, nevertheless, well aware that the effect on the system brings constitutional complaints into action, and aggravates those absolutely existing; consequently, must be considered as a period of great moment to the poor child. On this account it is every way important to point out both the extent of the influence of this act, as well as the numerous morbid sympathies to which it gives rise.

The sympathies by which dentition is attended, are, 1stly, eruptions on the skin, especially on the face and scalp; 2dly, griping pains, accompanied by a looseness with various coloured stools, as green, very pale yellow, clay coloured, or a peculiar dark brown, which leaves a very permanent stain of a very black colour upon the diaper; 3dly, spasms in various parts of the body, espe-

cially when passing from the waking to the sleeping state, or startings when asleep; 4thly, an increased or diminished quantity of urine, of various complexions, attended with great pain in making it, and sometimes a discharge resembling pus from the urethra; 5thly, partial palsy of the arms or legs; 6thly, cough, and difficulty of breathing; 7thly, convulsions; and 8thly, fever, &c. I once saw a case where violent croupy symptoms would appear whenever a tooth was about to be cut; and these would cease when the gums were scarified, or the tooth had advanced through the gum.

As a general remark it may be observed, that the children of the firmest constitutions cut their teeth the earliest and the easiest—I must, however, admit exceptions to this rule. I have lately had under my care a child with a diseased spine, who cut a number of teeth before she was four months old.

I have never distinctly perceived the advantage of very early dentition; for if it be a sign of more vigour of constitution, it nevertheless has from this very cause its penalties—hence the frequency of fever, and other diseases of irritation.

Much of the difficulty that attends painful dentition may be removed, as already suggested, by a proper attention being paid to air, exercise, food, bowels, &c.; for if these be duly regulated, the system will be less disposed to morbid action, though the local symptoms, such as swelling, redness, and inflammation of the gums, be considerable; and if proper care be bestowed upon the mouth, the force of the latter symptoms may be very much abated.

Indeed this important part of parental and medical duty should never be lost sight of; the mother should carefully inspect the situation of the child's mouth, from time to time: and should she discover a swollen gum, she should have re-

course to medical aid before the constitution is disturbed.

Should she not be familiar with the appearances of the gums under distension and inflammation, she will at least be aware, that this condition is accompanied by slavering, heat of mouth, &c., which should give rise to the suspicion that the process of teething has taken place, if the age of the child will justify the supposition; or, if it have some teeth, that others are about to appear.

However truly the slavering of children may denote the cutting of teeth in general, the rule is not infallible. I have seen children drivel largely at three months old, and continue to do so for months, without a single tooth making its appearance. From this circumstance I am led to believe, this sympathetic affection may denote the formation and hardening of the tooth, as well as its being about to pierce the gum: for when the investing membrane of the tooth is put upon the stretch, by the increased size and hardening of this body, it may possess an unusual degree of irritability, or sensibility, and thus give rise to several of the premonitory symptoms of this operation, before the gums are at all acted upon by its presence—hence the slavering, the frequent thrusting of the fingers in the mouth, &c.

I have thought it proper to state this fact, because I have seen it produce much anxiety in parents; especially if the subject be a first child; and it sometimes leads at this moment to the unnecessary expedient of having the gums of the child cut, before the lancet can well reach the crown of the tooth, however deep the incision may be made. I would, therefore, wish to spare the infant this unprofitable pain, since it is both unnecessary and unavailing; for I have seen the whole of the symptoms for which the operation was performed, continue with as much pertinacity after this had been done as before the gums were incised:

therefore, this operation should not be had recourse to without the advice of a surgeon.

(To be continued.)

ABSENCE OF THE SPINAL MARROW.

M. Andral, jun., read a report before the Academy of Medicine, (Paris,) on an anencephalous case, transmitted by M. Allonnean, physician at Thonars, and corresponding member of the section. The subject of this case is a foetus, eight months old, dead born, and presenting no trace whatever either of the brain or spinal marrow; the cavities of the cranium and spine contained only cellular tissue, in the areolæ of which an effusion of some red serum had taken place. The cranium was but imperfectly developed, for instance, of the frontal and occipital bones, there were only the orbital and basilar portions, which justifies the law established by M. Geoffrey Saint Hilaire, that when the nervous masses are wanting the bones destined to cover them are also absent. The nerves, on the contrary, were all present: the author has only failed to mark with sufficient precision this termination in the cranium and spine. This then may be regarded as an additional fact to those which prove the possibility of the non-existence of the cerebro-spinal axis in a foetus arrived at its full time. But this fact does not explain in the least the question at issue, viz. whether in anencephalous cases, the nervous centres never existed, or if, having existed at the commencement, they have been afterwards destroyed by an accidental cause. We know that this last opinion was espoused by Morgagni, but the principal anatomists of the present day are inclined to the former, founding their opinion, 1st, on the fact proved in the formation of the foetus, that the nerves develop themselves, not from the nervous centres to the organs which they supply, but *vice versa* from the nervous centres. And, 2dly, be-

cause comparative anatomy shows that, in certain fishes the spinal nerves have no connexion with the spinal marrow, being, in fact, separated from it by a liquid.—*Archives Generales, April, 1826.*

PAINFUL AFFECTION OF THE HAIRY SCALP.

Herin, a sailor, 40 years of age, of a bilious temperament, was received into the surgical wards of La Pitié, October 19th.

On occasion of a public festival, this man had been struck by the stick of a rocket, which pierced his hat, burnt him slightly, and inflicted a wound on the integuments of the head, on the left side of the lambdoidal suture, half an inch in extent. This wound bled copiously at the time of receipt, but Herin, the next day, went to his work as usual, and the sore got speedily well.

Two months after, the patient had repeated attacks of tingling of the ears, of giddiness, and often felt as if he was about to fall. These symptoms were followed by a severe head-ache; the pain shot from the occiput towards the forehead and especially the left ear, of which the patient conceived he had some deep-seated affection. Herin now resolved to enter a hospital. There, on the day of his entry, he was bled twice, without any relief; next day sinapisms were used, and fifty leeches applied behind the ears, but in vain. He was next purged with the croton tiglium oil, which sent him twenty times to the close stool; he was kept for twenty days on the lowest diet; a seton was put into the neck, all without any good effect. The patient then grew desperate, and having provided himself with a razor to terminate his existence if he could obtain no relief, he came to La Pitié to ask the advice of M. Lisfranc.

Examined with care, the following were the symptoms which he complained of: giddiness from time to

time, intolerably severe but passing pains of the head, which darted from the cicatrice towards the forehead and left ear. During the night the pain augmented to such a degree as entirely to banish sleep, and to render the life of the patient altogether insupportable. When the pain rose to intensity it was accompanied by throbbing in the head; this symptom could be produced at any time by merely pressing on the cicatrice. On shaving the head, the cicatrice was found to be eight lines in length and of a white colour; it presented no peculiarity either to the eye or the finger; it was only extremely sensible. The poor man could not endure the light. He said that since the receipt of the injury, he had had more frequent erections than usual; the pupils were natural, and no symptom of palsy had ever been observed.

Although M. L. was sufficiently clear in his diagnosis of the complaint, which he considered as a neuralgia, occasioned by the injury or incomplete division of some nervous branches, still as some deeper lesion might exist, such as depression of the internal table of the skull, a collection of purulent matter beneath it, or even a fungus of the dura mater, the treatment was commenced upon general principles, applicable to each and all of these cases. The patient was bled, had leeches applied at different times to the cicatrice, which was covered with cataplasms sprinkled with Sydenham's liquid laudanum; he was kept to low diet, took glysters, and the foot bath; but these various remedies did not alleviate his sufferings.

M. Lisfranc then determined to remove with the knife the cicatrice from whence all the pain emanated. This procedure he preferred to the simple section of the nerve, because, had he even succeeded in reaching the affected branch, the patient would still have been liable to a relapse; for it is amply proved that nerves when simply divided, unite

again in a great number of cases, and, after their cicatrization, resume their physiological or pathological functions.

Two semi-elliptical incisions were therefore made to include a flap of the skin, containing the whole cicatrice, three inches and a half in its long, and two inches and a half in its transverse diameter. The flap was then dissected out entire. The pericranium was healthy and no kind of tumor could be detected in the piece of integument removed. The patient was now relieved from his severe pains, and only suffered a little from the slight inflammation that now attacked the wound. With various slight ailments principally of an erysipelatous nature, the patient advanced gradually to convalescence. The wound resulting from the operation suppurated kindly; within six weeks after the operation it had healed, and the man was restored to complete health. As Herin remained attached to the hospital as a servant, and has continued well, there is no doubt of the perfect success with which the operation has been crowned.—*Revue Medicale.*

QUACKERY.

Is it possible to put an effectual stop to the impositions practised on the people by quack doctors? This is a great and interesting question. We would speak of the danger of permitting such a set of homicides to go at large and pillage the purses, the health, and the lives of the people; we would say a word on the duty—the imperative duty—of our rulers, to protect all the people from plunder and imposition; such as are ignorant and liable to be deceived by false pretensions, require this aid and expect to receive it; and trusting that an impostor would be taken into custody by government, the very circumstance of the boldness with which the charlatan practises his arts, gives to the common people a confidence in the correctness of his representations;—we would allude to the hundred human

lives which have been destroyed in our own country and our own vicinity by this race of murderers, and the fearful rapidity with which their numbers are increasing. But all these subjects have been so frequently discussed, so well are all convinced of the danger of tolerating quackery—of the duty of wise and just rulers to suppress it—of the lives it has destroyed, and of the increase of the evil with every successive year, that they will be passed over, and we shall simply ask, how can this system be effectually and radically crushed?

To this question there is but one reply. Laws may be passed to prevent such persons from recovering their fees by law;—but such laws are fruitless; physicians seldom, if ever, find it necessary to resort to legal prosecution for the recovery of their fees. It is a debt which if paid at all, is paid with great punctuality, and if the patient is indigent, the demand is never made. A legal proceeding would injure the reputation of a quack doctor, half of whose art consists in practising for “low wages,” and the other half in pretending to be indifferent to the pecuniary compensation, and to practise *solely* for the good of society. Laws, therefore, to this effect, reason as well as experience teach us are unavailing. But let it be made an *indictable offence* for any one to receive pay for medical advice, unless he shall have received a degree of Doctor in Medicine in some chartered college, or a licence to practise medicine from some incorporated medical society, and the evil vanishes at once. Let this crime be made punishable with great severity, and there will not be found any want of persons to enter complaints against offenders.

Such a law exists, we understand, in South Carolina, and its beneficial and humane consequences are felt throughout the state. With us such a law is loudly called for. It is the only way of putting down that worst of all abominations, it is the only way to protect the unsuspecting bourgeois from the ravages of a pestilence which is now tamely permitted to rage

throughout our land. Give us a code which shall hold out no punishment for slander or for theft, for conspiracy, or swindling, or personal assault, and shall put down this detestable quackery, and we hail the exchange as a glorious and humane one.

In the hope of directing the attention of the framers of our laws to this important subject, we have penned this article, and we trust the great Author of all good will place it in the way of those on whom it calls with such solemn earnestness.

THE BLOOD.

M. Segalas of Paris, has been engaged in some very extensive researches, with a view to determine the long-contested question, whether or not the blood may be the seat of diseases. He has lately communicated to the French Academy of Sciences the result of a number of experiments which he has made on dogs with alcohol and with the alcoholic extract of the *nux vomica*. With regard to the first, it evidently appears, that concentrated alcohol acts chemically on the blood of a living animal; that diluted alcohol produces immediate intoxication if injected into the veins or the bronchia, and intoxication more or less slow if introduced anywhere else; that the effects of alcohol deposited elsewhere than in the veins, is in strict accordance with the intensity and vigour of the absorbing power of the part, and is entirely independent of the nerves which pervade it, especially the nerves of the stomach; that these effects are accelerated and augmented, or retarded and diminished, by the circumstances which either favour or obstruct the entrance of the alcohol into the blood; that the intoxication goes off as the alcohol abandons the blood, and with more or less rapidity as the circumstances are more or less favourable to the exhalation; that the effects of the alcohol are in proportion, not to the quantity of alcohol which has

been brought into contact with the organs, but to the quantity of alcohol which is actually in the blood; lastly, that profound intoxication, and death from intoxication, coincide with a manifest disorder of the blood, and with a less remarkable disorganization of the solids. These facts, in showing intoxication to be the result of a real disease of the blood, serve also to explain several other facts which have been observed; for example, the operation of oil in preventing the effects of alcohol, and of ammonia, and acetate of ammonia, in dissipating them. It is evident that oil obstructs the absorption of alcohol, and that ammonia or acetate of ammonia facilitates its escape; indeed it is by no means improbable that the two last-mentioned substances act immediately on the blood, in a manner directly the reverse of alcohol. With regard to the result of the experiments made with the alcoholic extract of the *nux vomica*, it appears that this poison operates almost immediately after its entrance into the blood, and produces either a general or a partial tetanus, accordingly as it has been either mixed with the mass of the blood, or confined to a part of that fluid: that, deposited anywhere else but in the sanguine system, it does not act, except through the medium of the circulation, and that its effects, independent of the nerves of the part, are in strict accordance with the intensity and vigour of the absorbing power of the part: that the local phenomena of general poisoning may show themselves independently of general enervation, and are in absolute dependence on the local circulation: lastly, that a great many phenomena, which are entirely inexplicable by any supposed injury to the nervous system, can be the result only of a partial disorder of the blood, and are intelligible only by a reference to the anomalous action which the disordered portion of the blood exercises on the parts of

the nervous system with which it comes into contact.

VACCINATION.—In several countries of Europe general vaccination is ordered by government: no one who has not had cow pox, or small pox can be confirmed, put to school, apprenticed, or married. Small pox inoculation is prohibited; if it appears in any house, that house is put under quarantine. By such means the mortality of small pox in 1818 had been prodigiously lessened. In Copenhagen, it was reduced from 5,500 during 12 years to 158 during 16 years. In Prussia it was reduced from 40,000 annually to less than 3,000; and in Berlin, in 1819, only 25 persons died of this disease. In Bavaria only five persons died of small-pox in 11 years, and in the principality of Anspach it was completely exterminated. In England, on the other hand, the native country of this splendid and invaluable discovery, where every man acts on these subjects as he likes, crowds of the poor go unvaccinated; they are permitted not only to imbibe the small pox themselves, but to go abroad and scatter the venom on those they meet. A few years ago it broke out in Norwich, and carried off more persons in one year than had ever been destroyed in that city by any one disease, except the plague. A similar epidemic raged at Edinburgh; and last year it destroyed within one of 1,300 persons in the London bills of mortality.

PURGATIVE OIL.—M. Bally has made some clinical researches on the action of the oil of the *euphorbia latyris*, extracted by means of alcohol or expression. The oil obtained by the last mode appears to have the most power. Given to fifteen persons of different ages, it did not produce vastly different effects, nor cause a great number of evacuations. The purgative action is, indeed, inferior to that of the croton oil; indeed the dose requires to be doubled. It has sometimes the fault of exciting sickness, and consequently of being rejected; it has not, however, the disadvantage of producing salivation, as croton oil frequently does. M. Bally considers this medicine as an useful purgative, and convenient for children, particularly if the oil be fresh.

LAUDANUM.—It appears, by the verdict of a coroner's inquest, that two infants, aged only a few months, were poisoned by the dose of seven drops of laudanum. In many irritative complaints of infants, particularly during teething, laudanum is unquestionably a most valuable medicine; but in such cases, practitioners seldom or-

der a greater quantity than a drop for a dose, and generally only half a drop. The basis of Godfrey's cordial being laudanum, its indiscriminate use has no doubt destroyed the lives of many thousands and children. Of late years this quack medicine has nearly fallen into disuse.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Abortion, 1—Apoplexy, 1—Bilious fever, 1—Canker, 1—Canker in the bowels, 1—Cholera Infantum, 1—Consumption, 5—Dysentery, 2—Debility, 2—Hooping-Cough, 1—Infantile, 1—Intemperance, 2—Old age, 1—Typhus fever, 1—Slow fever, 1—Scarlet fever, 1—Worms, 1—Unknown, 2. Males, 12—Females, 14—Stillborn, 3.

MEDICAL SCHOOL IN BOSTON.

THE LECTURES at the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL COLLEGE, in BOSTON, will commence on the third Wednesday in November.

Anat. and Surg. by DR WARREN.

Chemistry, by DR GORHAM.

Midwifery and Med. Jurisprud. by DR CHANNING.

Materia Medica, by DR BIGELOW.

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The advantages for attending Hospital practice at this Institution, are considered equal to those afforded in any city of the United States.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

THE Trustees have the satisfaction to announce that the Honorable the Regents of the University have filled the vacant Professorships in this Institution, and that the College will be opened on the first Monday of November next, by an Address from the President. The respective courses of Lectures in the following order, viz.

JOHN AUGUSTINE SMITH, M. D. on Anatomy and Physiology.

ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D. on the Principles and Practice of Surgery.

JAMES F. DANA, M. D. on Chemistry.

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D. on the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.

EDWARD DELAFIELD, M. D. on Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.

JOHN B. BECK, M. D. on Materia Medica and Botany.

The Trustees are assured that the several courses of instruction will be full and complete, and that the means of illustration will be ample.

The students who have already attended Lectures in this Institution, are notified

that the changes which have taken place in the College will not deprive them of any privileges or facilities heretofore enjoyed.

In conformity with the ordinances of the Honorable the Regents, of the University, and the Laws of the State of New-York, every Student is required to attend two full courses of all the Lectures delivered in the College, before he can be admitted as a candidate for the Doctorate; unless said Student shall have attended Lectures in this College prior to the Session of 1822-3, or shall have attended one entire course of Lectures delivered in some incorporated Medical School or University.

The candidate must also have studied three years with some respectable practitioner of Medicine, and have arrived at the age of 21 years.

In announcing the new organization of the College and its first session in November next, the Board of Trustees believe that the high expectations of the Profession and the Public will be fully realized, and sustained by the distinguished reputation and talents of the several Gentlemen who have been appointed to fill the respective professorships.

By order of the Board of Trustees,
JOHN WATTS, Jr. M. D., Pres.
NICOLL H. DERING, M. D., Regist.

DR. A. G. HULL'S PATENT HINGE TRUSS.

THE great desideratum in all improvements of mechanical instruments, is to make a paramount combination of simplicity of structure and facility of effect.

The Patentee respectfully invites the attention of all persons versed in the surgical anatomy of the parts concerned, to the following exposition of the distinctive merits of the Truss.

Firstly. The concave internal surface of the rupture pad; from its pressure being greatest at the circumference, tends constantly to approximate the hernial parietes, affording them rest and mechanical support.

Secondly. The combined hinge and pivot mode of connection between the spring and pad, by means of a tenon and mortice so constructed as to preserve a double hinge and limited joint, acting in every direction, thereby securing the uniform pressure of the spring on the pad, and sustaining the same nice coaptation of the pad and rupture opening, as well under

the varied ordinary desultory muscular actions, as when the body is in a recumbent posture.

Thirdly.—The graduating power and fixture of the pad to the spring, rendering, as will be readily perceived, the position of the pad perfectly controllable, even to perfect minuteness. Also resulting from this mechanism, is the advantage of accommodating a large truss to a small person: hence the *facility of supplying without disappointment, persons at a great distance.*

Fourthly.—The Double Inguinal Truss; being simply the addition of another pad, attached to a short elastic metallic plate; this plate with its pad moves on the main spring by the same power of adjustment and fixture as the first pad, the pressure of the pads being graduated at pleasure by an intervening cork wedge.

Thus, dismissing all the complicated mechanism of straps, belts and spiral springs hitherto used, and but too often ineffectually used, is this distressing class of hernia managed with the same ease and certainty of success as the single rupture!

In the investigation of the virtues of this instrument, it is with the utmost assurance that we advert to several years successful experiment, the only true basis for assertion:—

And hence the Patentee hesitates not to affirm, that, in combining its qualities, such advantage has been taken of mechanical principles, as to leave neither necessity nor possibility of improvement. Late accounts from professional men, as well as my numerous agents, together with my own experience, warrant the highly interesting and auspicious conclusion, *that the complete cures which are effected on persons from 40 to 75 years of age—may with safety be computed at an average of 1 in 3—AND UNIVERSALLY ON CHILDREN!*

The Patentee is truly gratified that the success of his Truss has given them an introduction to the navy and army of the United States. The approval and recommendation to general use by the Medical Societies of the state of New York, and by many of the most respectable Medical Institutions, as well as medical practitioners in this and most other states, should be sufficient.

The above Truss is sold by EBENEZER WIGHT, Druggist, Milk, opposite Federal Street—where may be had a general assortment of genuine Drugs and Medicines.

Boston, July 25th.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1826.

NO. 18.

ON DENTITION.

BY DR. DEWEES, OF PHILADELPHIA.

(Concluded from page 139.)

One of the most important indications to be fulfilled during teething, is to diminish the local irritation arising from the protruding tooth or teeth; and this should be early attended to, that as few constitutional symptoms may be provoked as possible.

For this purpose the gums should be carefully inspected, and the portions of them in which teeth are due, or even supposed to be due, should be well examined, that any change in their colour or size may be detected, in order that the only appropriate remedy may be applied in proper time.

It must, however, be observed, that as far as my observations extend, the two lower teeth, when they are the first (as they should be) that make their appearance, rarely require to be cut; whereas, the upper frequently do, whether they have come at their regular period, or have anticipated the lower ones.

If, upon the examination of the mouth, the gums are found to be swollen and inflamed, the imprisoned tooth or teeth should be set at liberty by cutting through them until the tooth is felt. This operation becomes the more necessary, when the local irritation has not been relieved by the natural means, viz., by a salivation, or a slavering, or by a looseness; and especially so, when instead of a copious discharge of saliva, the mouth is found hot, dry, or clammy, and the bowels tardy. Under such circumstances, no time should be lost; the gums should be amply incised, and the child liberally

purged, to keep the constitution quiet; and if the child has been habituated to liberal feeding, and that on animal or other stimulating food, it must be immediately withheld, and the child be confined to the breast milk alone if not weaned; and if weaned, it should be indulged with nothing but milk or milk and water.

I am persuaded if proper attention be paid to the child at this time, many of the evils arising from dentition will be avoided; but unfortunately, the friendly admonitions of nature are either neglected, or overlooked by the greatest number of parents. The efforts which nature makes at this time are all calculated to prevent fever, or unnecessary local inflammation; accordingly a great quantity of saliva is poured from the mouth by the irritated salivary glands, that the vessels of the part may be unloaded; the appetite of the child is diminished, that less food may be taken; and the general system is reduced by a copious spontaneous diarrhoea. Thus nature declares, in plain but emphatic language, what she requires to aid her; nor ought she to speak in vain.

To co-operate, then, with this beneficial intention, let the child be put upon a mild and moderate diet, as just directed; and on no account be permitted either to eat or drink any thing which has a tendency to stimulate the system. Let its bowels be carefully watched, that they may not become confined; or if they be so, let this condition be removed by any appropriate diet, or by gentle laxatives.

I have found a liberal use of treacle, when there was a tendency to

constipation, of great service; this may be employed in several ways, as may best suit the particular habits of the child. If it is confined to the breast altogether, it will nevertheless drink freely of this substance when mixed with water. If it feed in part, its milk, or its milk and water may be sweetened with it; or if it be weaned, it may eat it on bread, or take it in any other practicable manner.

Should the treacle not be sufficiently aperient, half an ounce of manna may be given in any victuals which may require sweetening; and should this prove insufficient, a like quantity may be given in a few hours more. But, should the symptoms of irritation not be relieved by this plan, a grain or two of calomel may become necessary.

But it must be evident, that little relief can be afforded by any general applications, as long as the membranous expansion of the tooth remains entire—therefore, nothing but a free incision to the crown of the tooth can relieve the little sufferer. And it is often not less wonderful than delightful to witness the complete relief it affords. I have often observed excessive fever, and threatening irritation, to subside almost immediately after cutting the gums.

Notwithstanding the decided advantages resulting from cutting the gums, many are prejudiced against it; and will not, but with great reluctance, permit their children to undergo the operation: though they can cite no instance in which it has been attended with any mischievous consequence. The objections to cutting the gums, are, 1. That it is painful. Every body who has performed this operation with a proper instrument, and that in proper order, knows the contrary of this. In the first place, the gum is not at any time a place of exquisite sensibility; and, secondly, the celerity with which the instrument passes through, and the decided relief it almost invariably

affords, at once prevents any complaint on the part of the patient. This, however, may be considered but negative proof; if so, we have sometimes the most positive evidence that the operation cannot be painful, for children themselves sometimes ask for the operation to be performed. My own children have repeatedly solicited this kind office at my hands.

2. It is said, it requires much judgment to perform this operation; for if it be done too soon, it will afford no relief, besides making the tooth cut with more difficulty, by its leaving a hard scar. As regards the degree of judgment necessary in this case, I should think it very limited indeed, if upon inspecting the mouth, the person could not discover whether the gum is or is not altered from its natural condition; if it be, it is at once evident that the tooth is producing irritation or inflammation by its pressure against its coverings, and therefore it should be cut through. And though the tooth cut upon may be yet remote from the surface, still the operation may be of the greatest possible advantage, by dividing the membrane, now severely put upon the stretch, and from which the whole irritation proceeds. When this membrane has been once divided, it never unites again; and though the crown of the tooth may not show itself again for a long time, yet the irritation ceases from the moment of its division, and the disturbance of the system is quieted.

It is true the gum will sometimes heal if the tooth be not very near—but this is of no consequence, as its healing offers no increase of difficulty to the passing tooth. Every body knows that the second teeth are always more easily cut than the first; yet these teeth have to pass through denser cicatrices than the first; as by the drawing or falling out of the first teeth, much larger wounds are

made in the gums, consequently larger scars are left after their healing.

And if the gum be not changed, still the operation of cutting may be highly advantageous, and should always be tried in severe cases, as the irritation sometimes commences as soon as the tooth itself begins to swell. I have many times had occasion to prove the truth of this; therefore the objection to cutting the gums, lest the scars may do mischief, is without foundation.

Lancing the gums has been objected to, from a fear that cutting on them may do injury to the teeth by producing caries, and thus be injurious to the set below. But this cannot happen: 1stly, Because if the lancet does touch the tooth, it can do it no injury, as its hard enamel, which it possesses before the tooth is about to be cut, will entirely protect it against such a consequence. 2dly, If it really did dispose the tooth so touched to become carious, it would do no injury to the teeth which are to succeed them, because they are not in contact with each other.

The gums of such children as have not been lanced are more disposed to be ulcerated than those which have been cut.

It may be well, however, to remark, that when this operation is to be performed, it should be done with a bold hand and a sharp instrument; for if the incision be not carried down to the tooth, the operation will be of little avail. The mere bleeding of the gum answers little or no purpose; and failing in the intention for which it was proposed, only brings the operation into discredit, besides prolonging the sufferings of the little patient.

When the double teeth are about to be cut, they frequently show themselves, by one point piercing the gum—over the other portions of the tooth the gum remains, and is very tender; so much so is this the case sometimes, that the child will refuse every kind of victuals which

may require chewing. In such case the gum should be freely cut across, so as completely to liberate the crown of the tooth.

When a tooth which has been cut upon is remote from the surface, or the absorption of the gum goes on tardily, it will sometimes swell, and become very tender. When this is perceived, it should again be cut; and this repeatedly, as often as new necessities may arise.

The best mode of performing this operation is by having the child held horizontally, with its head resting on the operator's knee—the hands of the child must be secured by the assistant, and the lower jaw depressed and held firmly, while the lancet is introduced to the inflamed or tumefied portion of the gum; the edge of the instrument is then made to traverse the tooth, by an incision sufficiently deep to reach the tooth, which must be so clearly felt by the operator, as to satisfy him that nothing is left interposing between his lancet and the tooth. If the operation be properly performed, it gives no pain to the child—on the contrary, I have known them to cease crying the instant the instrument penetrated the gum.

EXTRACT OF BELLADONA IN EXTREME SENSIBILITY OF THE EYES.

Marche, aged 49, of sanguine temperament, had suffered 12 days from ophthalmia of the right eye, which he could not trace to any particular cause. The ocular mucous membrane was red, and the pupil, which was contracted, became obliterated when the eye was exposed to a feeble light; the pain, which had been so great as to prevent sleep, being at the same time greatly augmented. Recourse was twice had to general bleeding; twenty-five leeches were applied to the temples, and stimulating pediluvia were employed, by which means the inflammatory symptoms were for the most part subdued; but the pain and con-

traction continued, and did not allow the patient the least rest. Frictions were then employed at the base of the orbit, with extract of belladonna, diluted with water. Two hours after the first application the pain was less severe, the pupil began to dilate, and the patient was able to sleep. The next day the benefit was more marked, and the pain decreased, and the pupil dilated daily, the patient being enabled to bear increasing degrees of light: and on the eighth day of the employment of the belladonna, the cure was so complete, that no difference could be seen between the eye that had been affected and the other.—*Rev. Med.*

APPEARANCE OF THE BLOOD IN VENOUS SECTION.

The appearance of the blood, when drawn, is an uncertain guide with respect to repetition. The absence of the inflammatory crust, affords no decisive objection to farther bleeding—nor is the presence of it a sufficient reason for its further employment. It is by no means necessary to bleed, till the inflammatory character disappears from the blood. It is sufficient, in general, that the symptoms give way—and even if they should not, as is sometimes the case, we may be obliged from mere weakness to desist: a great disproportion between the crassamentum and serum, will in some degree serve as a guide. A large quantity of crassamentum, may be so far taken as an indication of general strength, as to justify large bleeding, where the circumstances of the disease appear to demand it; and, on the other hand, a very small quantity of crassamentum, floating as it were in a large portion of serum, should make us cautious in regard to further blood-letting; at all events, such a state of the blood will allow only a sparing quantity to be taken. We are not to believe, however, with the vulgar, that in such cases the blood is turned to water—for we shall find

that the serum, when examined by the proper tests, contains an ample quantity of albuminous matter.

More attention is paid to the firmness of the crassamentum, than is requisite. In general, where this is loose and easily broken, it is taken as an indication of a degree of weakness that will not bear bloodletting. This, however, is not a general rule; for in simple idiopathic fever, the blood is always in this state, even where the subject is strong; and yet bleeding in such cases may be safely and usefully practised; provided it is done at a proper period, that is, very early in the disease.

MEDICAL POLICE.

We are happy to find that a spirit exists among the faculty in this city which is in itself honourable, and in its consequences highly beneficial. The little jealousies which the nature of our professional pursuits render almost unavoidable, lead to personal ill will, and the necessity of a regular system of medical police. Such a system, however, although salutary in its general tendencies, is found insufficient to answer fully the ends for which it was framed; and we respond decidedly to the sentiment that frequent personal contact, habits of intercourse with each other, and the interchange of the common civilities and courtesies of society, will do more to place the members of the profession on their guard against unjustifiable interference and mutual ill will, and mutual detraction, than any regulations that can be adopted for this desirable object.

That such wise course is now adopted we most heartily rejoice. At a meeting, previously called, of the Physicians of Boston and its vicinity, held on Friday evening last at the Marlboro' hotel, it was agreed to have a medical conversation at that place on the last Friday in every month. All regular practitioners in the vicinity are invited to attend, and the object of the association is to cultivate feelings of friendship among members of the

profession, to communicate any important facts which may have come to the knowledge of any one of the faculty, and generally to promote the extension of medical knowledge and effect the total destruction amongst us of what has been so justly denominated the opprobrium medicum.

CHRONIC RHEUMATISM.

We are not ready to add to the number of the remedies which have been prescribed for this painful disease, without a certainty that such addition will be valuable in practice. This certainty we are convinced will attend the remedy it is the object of this article to bring before the profession. It is a mixture of equal parts of the balsam of sulphur and spirit of turpentine. Six drops of this mixture may be given morning and evening, and the dose increased two drops a day until it produces strangury, when the dose should be diminished a little and continued until the disease is removed. We have been recently informed of the good effects of this mixture in a great number of instances, and one very remarkable case has fallen within our notice in which the disease in its worst form vanished before it in a few weeks, although the patient had been long using without advantage the usual and other most powerful remedies for his troublesome and painful malady.

DIARRHœA.

The unnatural looseness of the bowels which is generally prevalent at this season of the year, is commonly said to be owing to *weakness*, or want of *tone* in those organs; implying that they are passive on the occasion; which is contrary to truth, and leads to improper treatment. The immediate cause of the discharge of the contents of the intestines, is the muscular action of the canal, excited in an undulatory or worm-like manner, and called accordingly the *vermicular* or *peristaltic* motion. This action is greater or less at different times, and the evacuations are in proportion. Purging, therefore, im-

plies greater action on the part of the intestines; consequently the terms *relaxation* and *weakness* are improper. The system in such cases may be altogether weak, but the intestines themselves are always in a state of increased action in diarrhoea. The discharge is facilitated by the contents being rendered more liquid, and this effect is promoted by a more copious secretion taking place from the lining membrane. To have a right view of this subject, therefore, we must take into account the increased *peristaltic motion*, and the *increased secretion* from the lining membrane, both of which take place when the membrane is in a state of excitement and inflammation.

Purgings, indeed, may take place without any inflammation of this membrane, and without any disease of the intestines themselves. Purgative medicines may produce this effect; but in this case the purging continues no longer than till the irritating substance is discharged. The mucous membrane may become *inflamed*, and increased secretions will follow; the muscular part of the intestines become more irritable and active, and thus increased discharges or *purgings* takes place. This inflammation may be produced by a great number of causes, and in some persons more than others, owing to predisposition. This predisposition is remarkable in hot climates, and at the present season of the year in our own climate, which has been attributed to eating fruit. Though excess in this may excite immediate purging, a moderate use of fruit rather tends to lessen the predisposition, by lessening the irritability of the system altogether.

The treatment of an unnaturally relaxed state of the bowels is sufficiently simple in the hands of physicians,—due attention being paid to its causes and the state of the patient.

COMMON SALT.

Within the last ten years we have met with many distressing cases of spongy gums, caries of the teeth,

and pains in the jaws and face, in persons under 30 years of age, which were evidently produced by the regular daily use of common salt to clean the teeth. This article we understand, has been long recommended by an eminent, or rather, fashionable dentist, as an excellent "*antiseptic dentifrice*." The learned gentleman, understanding that salt preserves meat from putrefaction, concluded that it would have the same chemical effect on the gums and teeth!! Salt is a powerful stimulant, and, with the friction of a tooth-brush, is no doubt capable of acting most injuriously (both chemically and mechanically,) on the gums, and of abrading, &c. the enamel of the teeth. The spongy gums and caries of the teeth, to which sailors are very subject on a long voyage, are evidently the consequences of the local action of salted meat on the gums and enamel of the teeth, for they occur when there is no symptom of indigestion or any disorder of the system. The most efficacious, and at the same time most innocent article, that has been introduced as a dentifrice, is the finely levigated charcoal of the areca nut. We have met with many persons who have used it upwards of forty years, who have never experienced tooth-ache, and remained so perfectly free from any disease of the teeth or gums, as to have no occasion to apply to a dentist. The late Dr Lind used it upwards of fifty-five years, and at the age of 85 died, with all his teeth perfectly sound. An objection to this article has been made, on account of its black colour; but this it does not impart to any thing on which it may come in contact. It renders the enamel white, and evidently preserves it and the gums from disease, and, in conjunction with the occasional sponging of the gums with the tincture of rhatany, as recommended in our Medical Guide, it keeps them firm in their sockets. In a late number we have recommended a composition

for cleaning the teeth, the basis of which is the torrefied areca nut, for the use of those who object to the black colour of the areca charcoal, and this we find to act as beneficially as the levigated charcoal. There is no doubt that disorders of the stomach, and even of the lungs, often arise from a neglect of the teeth and gums; for when they are in an unhealthy state, the secretion of saliva, on which digestion greatly depends, is more or less morbid, and capable of counteracting the effects of stomachic and other medicines. The odour which is emitted by foul or diseased teeth, and unhealthy saliva, is also capable of disordering the lungs.

INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF BLOODLETTING.

Highly as bloodletting is to be prized as a remedy for inflammation under a variety of circumstances, it is nevertheless necessary we should use it with caution, as knowing, that, when misapplied, it is capable of doing much harm. One of the ill effects ascribed to it, however, and which has deterred many from employing it where it was obviously wanted, is its supposed tendency to induce dropsy, or, as it is often expressed to occasion *effusion*. Thus it is said, if we bleed to too great an extent in pneumonia, we shall give rise to *hydrothorax* or effusion in the chest. But the serous accumulation in this case, is the effect of the inflammation, not of the bleeding, which, by checking the inflammation, tends rather to prevent the effusion than to cause it. A large loss of blood is occasionally followed by slight oedematous swelling of the feet and ankles, but never, by general dropsy, nor by effusion into cavities as the mere effect of the bleeding.

MURIATE OF LIME.—Dr Hufeland has lately noticed several cases of wen, in which this article has been successfully used. The Editors of a periodical work say, that it has succeeded with them

"when iodine had failed ; and the tumour," say they, "has diminished much more rapidly than with the employment of the latter medicine, even where it has been useful." They state, that they are now using it in several cases of glandular affections, but with what degree of success, if any, they do not condescend to state. There is often great peculiarity in the tumour termed wen ; for although iodine is nearly as much entitled to be termed a specific remedy for wen as mercury is for syphilis, we sometimes meet with a esse on which it produces no impression whatever, and in such a case, the muriate of lime may act beneficially ; but the results of long experience have proved, that, generally speaking, it has no specific action on wen ; and as to its effect in glandular or scrofulous affections, it has, after having had a fair trial, been abandoned by the profession.

THE STONE.--M. Thibelt, (de l'Orme,) a young medical professor of great distinction in France, has just presented to the Academy of Surgery in Paris, a paper in which he describes a new method of dissolving the stone in the bladder. A most ingeniously constructed instrument conducts into the bladder a little pocket, very thin in its texture, but capable of resisting the strongest acids. By an admirable mechanical contrivance, the stone is enclosed in the pocket, which is subsequently closed in such a manner as to prevent the possibility of the escape of any of the liquids which are injected into it. The action of the dissolvents, powerful in itself, is augmented by the electrical current of the voltaic pile, which, alone, is capable of dissolving the hardest bodies. This paper has excited a great sensation ; and the report of the Academy upon it, which will no doubt contain the details necessary to the elucidation of this most valuable invention, is expected with considerable impatience.

IMPORTANT ANATOMICAL FACT.--*Injection of the Nerves.*--We are indebted to M. Bogros, whose premature death science has to deplore, for the knowledge of a fact which may cast a new light on the functions of the nerves. This expert anatomist, by means of an injection as simple as it was ingenious, succeeded in showing that in every nerve there is a canal which extends from the origin of the nerve to its extreme termination, and in rendering clear how these nerves anastomose, whether on the skin or the nervous membranes. He employed for these purposes mercury, the gravity of which constituted the only propelling power em-

ployed to make it penetrate into the most minute nervous ramifications, nearly in the same way as in the lymphatics.

ADHESIVE PLASTER.--The valuable adhesive plaster of Mr Griffitts, at the corner of Eighth and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia, is coming into general use : the high testimonies in its favour sufficiently establish its utility. The subscribers to this Journal who wish to patronise a valuable improvement, will, we think, be pleased with this plaster. Its convenience, from being ready prepared for use, is a recommendation.—*Med. Recorder.*

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Apoplexy, 1—Cholera Morbus, 1—Consumption, 4—Canker, 3—Canker in the Bowels, 3—Dysentery, 5—Dropsy in the Chest, 2—Decline, 2—Drowned, 1—Infantile, 3—Intemperance, 1—Old Age, 1—Cholera Infantum, 1—Unknown, 7. Males, 19—Females, 16—Stillborn, 1.

AMERICAN MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY.

THIS contemplated work is in progress, and a prospectus and subscription will be arranged and presented to the public soon as materials can be collected. Those gentlemen who will be kind enough to furnish materials for the work are respectfully requested to forward their communications to the publisher of this paper, or to Dr Thacher, Plymouth, the intended author, as soon as may be convenient.

MEDICAL SCHOOL IN BOSTON.

THE LECTURES at the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL COLLEGE, in BOSTON, will commence on the third Wednesday in November.

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ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D. on the Principles and Practice of Surgery.

JAMES F. DANA, M. D. on Chemistry.

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D. on the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.

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JOHN B. BECK, M. D. on Materia Medica and Botany.

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In announcing the new organization of the College and its first session in November next, the Board of Trustees believe that the high expectations of the Profession and the Public will be fully realized, and sustained by the distinguished reputation and talents of the several Gentlemen who have been appointed to fill the respective professorships.

By order of the Board of Trustees,

JOHN WATTS, Jr. M. D., Pres.
NICOLL H. DERING, M. D., Regist.

Vaccination.

THE undersigned devotes his professional time chiefly to the business of Vaccination, and to the preservation of the genuine vaccine matter for the use of others.

Physicians will be regularly supplied with matter for any period of time they may agree for, not less than six years, for an annual fee of 5 dollars payable in advance.

Tickets will also be issued from this Institution that will entitle any Physician or other citizen of the United States, to vaccine matter, on the following terms, viz: *Private Tickets* at ten dollars each, that will entitle the holders of the same to fresh matter as often as they may have occasion to use it for three years; and *Public Tickets* at thirty dollars each, that will entitle all persons residing in the neighbourhood of any particular Post Office (large towns and cities excepted) to the same privilege for a like period of time. Private Tickets are to be held by the purchasers themselves and for their own use; and Public Tickets by the Post Masters through whose particular offices all applications for matter forwarded must be made.—Surgeons of the Army and Navy of the U. S. will be furnished with genuine vaccine matter at all times, free of any expense.

All the privileges of this Institution and advantages heretofore offered to Physicians and others, will be secured to them agreeably to their respective engagements with the undersigned.

No letter addressed to the undersigned will be received at any time unless the Postage thereon is paid.

} *Vaccine Institution,
Baltimore, 16th Sept. 1825.* }

JAMES SMITH.

 The introduction of the Small-Pox into North Carolina about four years since, and which occasioned the repeal of the Law "to encourage Vaccination," was not the result of any mistake made by Dr Smith, as he was at first induced to believe. It has since been discovered and shown that this fatal occurrence is to be attributed entirely to a wicked trick, that was unsuspected at the time, and could not have been guarded against by any person. For a more full account of it, however, the reader who feels interested is referred to a letter addressed by Dr Smith, 3d February, 1824, to Mr Clay, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to a subsequent report of a Committee in Congress to whom it was referred. This report exculpates Dr Smith from all blame, and recommends the adoption of his entire plan for the general distribution of the vaccine matter. Sept. 27.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1826.

NO. 19.

ON HYPOCHONDRIASIS.

That a deranged condition of the digestive organs may produce lowness of spirits is too obvious to admit of denial, or to require any illustration. But this kind of mental depression bears a direct relation to the state of the stomach, and as this regains its tone, the mind recovers its hilarity. Such, however is not the case in hypochondriasis, in which there is, for the most part, a conviction pressing on the mind of the patient, that he labours under some incurable disease—an impression which no vigour of his digestive system can remove, and which becomes the constant object of his solicitude—paralyzes every mental exertion, and poisons every rational enjoyment. Neither does the idea that hypochondriasis depends upon the indulgence of fancy or caprice appear better founded. A man is laughed at who complains of pain in the great toe of the leg which he lost on the field of Waterloo some ten years ago; yet, however ridiculous it may appear, it is literally true that he feels the pain there, because the nerve which went to the toe conveys to the brain precisely the same sensation it was wont to do before the limb was amputated. In such a case no reasoning can alter the nature of the impression, nor any argument blunt the acuteness of the suffering. So I imagine it is in hypochondriasis; we may know perhaps that the sensations do not—cannot correspond with the reality—in a word, that they are but sensations, yet we cannot, either in the one case or the other, shake off the inconvenience by exertion, or drive it off by ratiocination. I beg not to be misunderstood—I do

not mean to assert that any hypochondriac may not aggravate his complaints by intemperance in his diet, indulgence in his caprices, or indeed any irregularity in his mode of life; but I do assert that his complaint sometimes comes on notwithstanding the most rigorous bodily temperance and mental discipline; yet all the doctors lay the onus of this miserable complaint upon the stomach, and direct their remedies against its supposed delinquencies. I am myself one of the ill-fated race of hypochondriacs, and therefore, speak from personal knowledge. I consulted Mr A—, and was beginning to describe my feelings to him, thinking, "good easy man," that a knowledge of the symptoms was necessary to a discovery of the remedy—not at all. He cut me short with "don't tell me of feelings! you're hipped, Sir, that's all; take a blue pill every night, and read my book." Not quite satisfied with this off-hand method of prescribing, which looked as if he had made up his mind before hand of giving me the blue pill, whatever my complaints were, I resolved to consult Dr P—; he too ordered medicines for the stomach, but luckily, without enjoining the perusal of his book, which I am told is more difficult of digestion than all the drugs at Apothecary's Hall. The idea of reading medical books having been suggested to me by Mr A—, I speedily collected all which seemed likely to throw any light upon my complaints, and it is from the result of this inquiry that I have formed my opinion that hypochondriasis does not depend so much on the state of the digestive system as upon the irritation of certain

nerves (varying in different persons,) by which false impressions are transmitted to the brain, in the manner of the soldier above-mentioned who had lost his leg.

Persons having their nervous systems so constituted as to be susceptible of strong impressions from slight causes—having, in short, what is usually called a *nervous* temperament, have always been regarded as particularly liable to this disease. Rousseau and Cowper may be taken as good illustrations—men who were unable by any degree of temperance to starve themselves into tranquillity and cheerfulness. Indeed, it is consistent with general observation, that pursuits leading to the cultivation of the fancy or indulgence of feeling are powerful auxiliaries in the development of morbid nervous irritability. Among the various classes of artists, for example, musicians are perhaps the most subject to those wayward fancies which mark the hypochondriac; witness Viotti, Sacchini, Mozart, and others; whilst the effect of music upon minds gifted with undue sensibility is strikingly illustrated by the melancholy and passionate desire of revisiting their native country, produced on Swiss soldiers on hearing the Ranz des Vaches. Yet I apprehend it would be very difficult to show in what manner the stomach was affected by their sounds. Shakespeare, who was a tolerably correct observer of nature, speaks of the “soul inspiring drum,” the “ear-piercing fife,” and even attributes certain nameless effects to the bagpipe “singing in the nose”—but so far as I know, mentions no music which held any sympathy or communion with the stomach.

The fact is, as it appears to me, that the stomach is of a very jealous disposition, and will not work unless attended to; take off the mind too frequently and too long, no matter in what way, and the dissention is proportionally affected; the individual, after becoming melancholy or

capricious, in vulgar language, *hipped*, the indigestion being obviously the effect, not the cause of the mental affection; hence it is that men of studious habits generally become dyspeptic, and not unfrequently hypochondriacal. It is very consolatory, however, for those who are thus affected, to be able to refer their bodily infirmities to their mental superiority; and as a quotation from any old author is always very useful in an argument, and of course one from a Latin or Greek writer doubly so, I would remind them that Aristotle asks “*cur homines qui ingenio clarerunt et in studiis philosophiae vel en republica administranda vel in carmine fingendo vel en artibus exercendis melancholicos omnes fuisse vidramus?*”

Women are said to be less liable to the disease than men, which may be accounted for either by the fact of their prudently abstaining from the fatigue of very profound meditations; or, by supposing the same causes to produce a different train of phenomena, constituting hysterics, a complaint, however, so analogous to the subject of this paper, that many have regarded them as the masculine and feminine of the same species. Talking of the ladies, I may remark, that a French writer of some celebrity (M. Falret,) argues that the abdominal viscera cannot be the seat of hypochondriasis, because the disease does not prevail among his fair country-women, who, according to his insinuation, wear stays so contrived as to produce great impression “*sur les bas ventre.*” Now, without underrating the sacrifices made by the French ladies in the cause of fashion, we may be allowed to question whether the sufferings of the male sex in this country have not for some years been quite as exquisite; but, to whichever the merit may belong of wearing the tightest stays, I must say, that I never met with any instance of hypochondriasis from this cause: in fact a certain degree

of intellect seems necessary for its production. From this digression I return to the moral or intellectual causes which are very numerous. It is very uncommon to meet with any one who has been much given to study of any kind who has not experienced this affection to a greater or less extent—but at the same time, among the various kinds of reading, none are so apt to produce hypochondriasis among unprofessional persons, as the perusal of medical works; so generally is this acknowledged, that M. Villernay has enumerated “lecture habituelle de Buchan”* among the exciting causes. Rousseau, too, not only admits this cause, but describes in forcible language the effect of such injudicious studies upon his singularly constituted mind. He says, “having read a little on physiology, I set about studying anatomy: and passing in review the numbers and varied actions of the parts which compose my frame, I expected twenty times a day to feel them going wrong; far from being astonished to find myself dying, my astonishment was that I could live. I did not read the description of any disease which I did not imagine myself to be affected with; and I am sure that if I had not been ill I must have become so upon this fatal study. Finding in every complaint the symptoms of my own, I believed I had got them all, and thereby added another much more intolerable—the phantasy of curing myself, a thing difficult to avoid when one reads medical books. By means of plodding, reflecting, and comparing, I came to the conclusion that the root of my complaint was a polypus of the heart.”

The passions may be ranked next to mental exertion in the production of hypochondriasis, particularly fear; after which may be placed chagrin and ennui. This last is very remarkable in men of business who

abandon their affairs to seek for tranquillity and repose in retirement—those in short, who pass from a life of activity to one of idleness. Under these circumstances, the fancy first conjures up the evil, and then the mind dwells upon it with morbid pertinacity.

It would not appear that climate has much influence on hypochondriasis, which, however, bears a distinct relation to the progress of civilization, becoming more frequent as it advances. It likewise occurs particularly, in those countries which have been subjected to great political events, a circumstance which accounts for the number of hypochondriacs observed by Zacchias, during the eventful reign of Louis XIV: the same effect is said to have been produced in Spain and Germany by the late invasions of the French.

With regard to the symptoms of this disease, or the manner in which it develops itself, this varies in almost every different case; but the part most frequently fixed upon as the seat of some incurable malady, is the heart, especially among young medical hypochondriacs. I am told the late eminent professor of physic in Edinburgh, used to mention that he was every season consulted by a great number of young medical students on the state of their hearts—and it is asserted by the French writers, that when Corvisart first drew the attention of the pupils at the Ecole de Medicine to the organic *lusus* of this organ, it brought on an epidemic of imaginary aneurisms. The sight, hearing, smell, and taste, are sometimes subject to painful or depraved affections, and at others are endowed with a marked sensibility; this is particularly the case with regard to touch, the slightest degree either of heat or cold, producing strong impressions—in some, the integuments become preternaturally tender, and the patient even complains of exquisite pain in the hair.

* Reading Buchan habitually.

The whims and phantasies of hypochondriacs are very numerous, and many of them such as to provoke a smile, even when we most pity the subjects of such strange delusions. Some describe the sensation of a great explosion, as of a piece of firearms in the head, chest, or abdomen; while others imagine that they feel the movements of some living animal within them. One lady thought her skin had become rough and scaly like that of a carp, an impression which she removed at will by calling to her assistance the sense of touch. Greding mentions the case of a medical man who was impressed with the belief that his stomach was filled with frogs, which had been spawning ever since he bathed when a boy in a pool where there were a few tadpoles. The life of this unfortunate man was spent in travelling from place to place, to consult the most eminent physicians concerning this imaginary evil.—“He argued himself,” says M. Greding, “into a great passion in my presence, and then asked me if I did not hear the frog-croak.” Marcellus Donatus mentions the case of a baker of France, who imagined himself a great lump of butter, and durst not sit in the sun or near a fire for fear of being melted—rather an unhappy phantasy by-the-by for a baker. Zimmerman met with an individual who fancied himself a barleycorn, and did not venture to go abroad lest he should be picked up and swallowed by the first sparrow that espied him.

One of the most annoying and vexatious absurdities into which hypochondriacs are led, is the degree of vacillation in every purpose, and the deliberation which precedes the most unimportant actions; thus Dr. Reid mentions that he called one day upon a young friend who had injured his health by the intensity of his application. It was afternoon, but he was still in bed, not having been able to decide whether he should wear his small-clothes or pantaloons;

having renewed his reasoning upon this important matter, he at length determined in favour of the latter; but he had not been dressed many minutes before he changed his mind, and during the rest of the day wore breeches. From these and similar instances we acquire the fidelity of the picture of a hypochondriac, as given by Moliere in his “*Malade Imaginaire*,” when he makes Argan say, “Monsieur Pyon m'a dit de me promener le matin dans ma chambre douze allées et douze venues, mais j'ai oublié à lui demander si c'est en long ou en large.” No strength of mind or extent of cultivation seems capable of protecting us against these ludicrous imaginations. Even Pascal, remarkable as he was for the depth and clearness, as well as piety of his mind, was yet unable to conquer the force of hallucination. He fancied himself always placed at the edge of an abyss, into which he was constantly afraid of falling, and it was only by pushing a chair over the supposed verge of the precipice and finding it did not fall that he was able to undeceive himself. This experiment he is said always to have had recourse to before he ventured to sit down when labouring under a fit of this disease. This brings to my mind the case of an individual who had an equal fear of sitting down, but for a very different cause: it has occurred to the writer to know of a gentleman who supposed his “nether bulk” to be made of glass, and who, therefore, never sat down without extreme caution, lest he should break it all to pieces.

With regard to treatment in this complaint, I am satisfied that medical men are wrong in endeavouring, as they generally do, to argue their patients into better health. This will not do; and I am satisfied, from my own experience, that till he has gained the confidence of his patient by listening to, appearing to believe, and prescribing gravely and formally for his most fanciful ailments, he has

no chance of being of any real service to him; any expression which insinuates that the dream is imaginary at once destroys all confidence; whereas, an attentive examination of the symptoms, and favourable anticipation of the result, go far toward tranquilizing the mind of the patient. In this way I have known the best effects from a course not of blue, but of bread pills, aided by exercise, amusement, and cheerful society.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER will in future be edited by Dr J. G. COFFIN, the present proprietor, who will speak for himself in the next number.

This sale will make no other difference to those subscribers who have paid in advance, than the probable improvement of the work, under the care of a gentleman so well qualified for the business.

To those subscribers who have paid regularly their subscription, the publisher returns his thanks; those who have not paid for the preceding volumes, are requested to forward arrearages as soon as they can make it convenient;—the sums due, though trifling to individuals, will collectively be very useful.

LEPROSY.

This disease rarely if ever occurs in this country. We are sometimes informed such a person "has the leprosy," and asked if there is any cure for it. But when we come to examine the patient, the disorder proves to be one of a different nature, and in some cases so totally and radically different, that it is hard to imagine how the name of leprosy was ever associated with it. Surely this appellation could not have been applied by any one who had ever seen a case of genuine lepra or, we had almost added, of any other cutaneous disease. We apprehend the fact may be, that the difficulty usually found in conquering any extensive and obstinate disorder of the surface, gives the idea of leprosy to the practitioner, and as that is generally considered

an *incurable* malady, the affair rests better so than in any other state in which it could be placed.

There is one peculiarity of the true leprosy which is never absent in that disease. It is the *circular*, or nearly circular figure of the patches. This characteristic is so uniform, that no case, even though resemblant in all other particulars, can be considered leprosy unless this peculiarity be present. From its very commencement in a small pimple on the extremity, through all its stages to large and deep sores, the *circular* figure of each patch is uniformly maintained; and although there are other disorders which assume this form, the leprosy *never* assumes any other.

When, therefore, a disease prevails extensively over the surface, sinks deep into the structure of the skin, and resists the usual remedies, it should not be at once condemned by affixing to it the dreaded name of leprosy. Unless the circumstance we have mentioned attends these symptoms, it has no title to the appellation, and even where all these appearances are combined, not one case in an hundred would yet be leprosy.

The disorder most commonly denominated lepra by those whose knowledge of the subject is limited, is that usually known by the name of *salt rheum*. When the scales and patches of this disorder continue to be formed after the common remedies have produced but temporary relief, it is set down as leprosy, and at once abandoned. But there are strong marks of distinction between the two complaints. The scales of leprosy are usually round, as well as the patches on which they are formed; those of the salt rheum are of various shapes and sizes, and sometimes the diseased epidermis may be taken off in pieces half as large as the hand. The patches of leprosy have an elevated border, and an inflamed margin; two circumstances which are seldom if ever noticed in the salt rheum. The latter disease appears sometimes in spots, sometimes in lines, and often continuous

over the whole surface of the body ; the patches of leprosy are not only either circular or oval, but always intercepted by healthy skin. In the salt rheum there is frequently, and especially in the worst cases, a slight discharge of transparent lymph, when the scales are rubbed off too harshly in consequence of intense itching ; but in lepra the scales have a shining appearance, and there is no such discharge in any case. Other points of difference might be mentioned, but enough have already been detailed to show that a careful examination would detect the difference ; besides what has been told, there is, too, a general aspect, a countenance, as it were, to each, by which an experienced eye can recognize it at once.

The salt rheum, *even in its worst forms*, we believe to be perfectly and easily curable ; of the genuine leprosy, we have never seen but one case in which a thorough cure was effected, and that was not without great difficulty and perseverance.

A popular idea has maintained that all diseases which produce *scales* on the surface, are of a leprous character. This erroneous impression has grown out of the superficial attention this class of diseases has received from the faculty in general. There were four genera of scaly eruptions recognized by Willan ; and the cases of either of the three last genera are infinitely more frequent than those of leprosy, which is placed first. But, say some, they all resemble each other in many particulars—the distinction is of little moment. This doctrine is both unscientific and totally inapplicable to the case in question. To one who is acquainted with the subject, it seems as absurd to call all scaly diseases leprosy, because they are scaly, as all vesicular diseases tetter, because they are vesicular. It is certainly no less ridiculous than to say that the measles is the scarlatina, because both are exanthematous, or to call porrigo the itch, because both are pustular. This loose and erroneous habit ought to be allowed to exist no longer. To attempt to correct it ourselves would be presump-

tion—each practitioner must make himself familiar with the diagnosis of the squamous diseases, and by study, observation, and attentive examination of the cases which chance within his view, he will soon be aware of the total absurdity of his former views on this subject.

HEALTH OF BOSTON.

Since the departure of the *influenza*, which last winter and spring was so generally prevalent, our city has enjoyed such an unusual immunity from the prevailing diseases of the season, that it may seem superfluous in us to descant upon a subject of such notoriety. But notwithstanding it has been a *dull time* for our business, we cannot but congratulate our fellow citizens on a subject of so much interest, presuming that their feelings in this respect are at least as grateful as those of their medical brethren. Our last spring's guest—we hope to be pardoned for this slight remembrance of *an old friend*—of such wide-spread influence, departed as it came, though not “like a baseless fabric,” for the wrecks of constitution it has left behind are many ; but like a scourge, the smarts of which are felt long after the strokes have ceased.

The tightness across the chest, irritation in the lungs, and cough, which so many experience since the damp weather and chilly evenings have commenced, lead one to suspect that the impression which was made upon these organs in the severe attack which they then suffered, has not been effaced ; and that the apprehension which was so general that the epidemic to which we allude would hasten the breaking up of many constitutions, was but too well founded. Such affections occurring at this season of the year, double care should be taken to remove them thoroughly, before the approaching winter shall give them a more serious character. Physicians know, and people generally cannot be too often apprized, that an organ which has once suffered from an attack of disease, is afterwards the more likely to yield to morbid influences, or is

predisposed; and that there is no condition to which this rule so invariably applies, as in diseases of the lungs and air passages. Hence the great and sudden changes of temperature to which our climate at this season is subject, should now be avoided or guarded against with the utmost caution, and every means employed to fortify the constitution, and protect the delicate and important organs which suffered so severely and universally as did the lungs but a few months ago. Let those, then, who experience tickling in the throat, with small dry cough, take warning from these premonitory signs of approaching mischief, and avoid violent exercise, and whatever occasions hurried respiration and fulness of the lungs; as singing, playing on wind instruments, long and loud declamations, which in an irritable state of the air passages have an evil tendency. With the view of preserving the important functions of the skin, flannels should be put on immediately, and constantly worn till the weather becomes mild and settled in the spring; in addition to this, let the feet be kept warm and dry. The best remedy, in the hands of those who are not physicians, to remove irritation and tightness from the lungs, is the application of blisters to the breast, or the ointment of tart. antimony, which should be persisted in as long as the internal affection remains.

Our ordinary summer and autumnal complaints have not been, and are not at present, as troublesome as formerly. Of dysentery, we have had comparatively little, and that of a milder form than usual. Choleras have been pretty much as in former years, though if any thing, milder and less frequent.

POPULATION, &c.—In Great Britain, the number of individuals in a state to bear arms, from the age of 15 to 60, is 2,744,847. The number of marriages is about 98,030 yearly; and it has been remarked, that in 63 of these unions there were only 3 which had no issue. The number of deaths is about 332,708 yearly, which makes nearly 25,502 monthly, 6,398 weekly, 914 daily, and 40 hourly.

The deaths among the women are in proportion to those of the men as 50 to 54. The married women live longer than those who continue in celibacy. In the country, the mean term of the number of children produced by each marriage is 4; in towns the proportion is 7 for every two marriages. The number of married women is to the general number of individuals of the sex as 1 to 3! and the number of married men to that of all the individuals of the male sex, as 3 to 5. The number of widows is to that of the widowers as 3 to 1: but the number of widows who marry again is to that of widowers in the same case, as 7 to 4. The individuals who inhabit elevated situations live longer than those who reside in less elevated places. The half of the individuals die before attaining the age of 17 years. The number of twins is to that of ordinary births as 1 to 65. According to calculations founded on the bills of mortality, one individual only in 3,126 attains the age of 100 years. The number of births of the male sex is to that of the female sex as 96 to 95.—*Edinburgh Phil. Journ.*

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.—The degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred, by the Medical Society of South Carolina, on 26 gentlemen, recommended to them by the Faculty of the Medical College of South Carolina. We discover from the catalogue of graduates, that 7 were from Georgia; 1 from St. James', Santee; 1 from St. Matthews; 1 from Ireland; 1, residence not mentioned, and 15 belonging to South Carolina. The Professors are Dr Holbrook, Dr Ramsay, Dr Dickson, Dr Prioleau, Dr Frost, Dr Ravenel, Dr Elliott, and Dr Geddings. The Medical Society, *by whom the degrees are conferred*, offer annually a premium of 20 dollars, for the best Latin or Greek Thesis or Dissertation. The Faculty have issued their third circular.—*Med. Repos.*

ANTIQUITY OF THE Cow Pox.—*Origin of the Small Pox from the Cow Pox.*—The Pope's physician, Dr Prela has in a particular work on this subject, endeavoured to prove, especially by passages from Pliny and Celsus, that the cow-pox was known in the old world, under the name *boa*, (signification of its origin from the cow,) and has started the curious hypothesis, that from the effect of the *boa* on the human frame, the small pox gradually developed itself, so that the present expulsion of this disease by the cow.pox, is only a return of the latter to its original state.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Accidental, 1—Canker, 2—Consumption, 4—Cancer, 1—Decline, 1—Dysentery, 4—Dyspepsia, 1—Dropsy, 2—Infantile, 1—Intemperance, 1—Inflammation, 1—Lung Fever, 2—Scald, 1—Unknown, 1—Stillborn, 3. Males, 11—Females, 12.

AMERICAN MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY.

THIS contemplated work is in progress, and a prospectus and subscription will be arranged and presented to the public soon as materials can be collected. Those gentlemen who will be kind enough to furnish materials for the work are respectfully requested to forward their communications to the publisher of this paper, or to Dr Thacher, Plymouth, the intended author, as soon as may be convenient.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF
NEW-YORK,

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

THE Trustees have the satisfaction to announce that the Honorable the Regents of the University have filled the vacant Professorships in this Institution, and that the College will be opened on the first Monday of November next, by an Address from the President. The respective courses of Lectures in the following order, viz.

JOHN AUGUSTINE SMITH, M. D. on *Anatomy and Physiology*.

ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D. on *the Principles and Practice of Surgery*.

JAMES F. DANA, M. D. on *Chemistry*.

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D. on *the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine*.

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By order of the Board of Trustees,

JOHN WATTS, Jr. M. D., Pres.
NICOLL H. DERING, M. D., Regist.

MODERN PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

IN the press, and will shortly be published by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184, Washington-St., a new and greatly improved edition of the MODERN PRACTICE OF PHYSIC, by JAMES THACHER, M. D. A. A. S. Author of the American New Dispensatory, and Observations on Hydrophobia. To this work is prefixed an interesting history of the rise and progress of Medical Science in the United States, detailing in the order of their respective organization, an account of the Medical Schools, with the names of the Professors and number of students in each, together with the expenses and terms of admission and graduation in the several schools. In treating of the diseases in this work, the author has consulted those European authorities which are considered of the highest standing at the present day; as Good, Parr, Thomas, Armstrong, &c. But, as relates to the epidemic and other diseases peculiar to our own country, precedence has been given to American authors, as the most correct and sure guides to American practitioners. The author expresses a confident hope that this work will be found to comprise a mass of practical knowledge that will meet the approbation of the profession, and prove particularly useful to the young practitioner.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1826.

NO. 20.

GENERAL VIEWS AND OBJECTS.

A LEADING object of the present proprietor and conductor of this paper, will be to assist parents in their attempts so to rear their children as to give them wellformed bodies, firm nerves, vigorous, active and well-trained muscles. In other words, to secure to them the advantages of a sound constitution and good health. It is no less an object to aid the adult, male and female, in retaining and improving whatever gifts and endowments nature or education may have conferred.

This plan includes an acquaintance with the more prevalent and active causes of disease, and the means of counteracting their influence. This information should be a part of general education, with the view to keep the individual as long as possible, if not through life, out of the hands of the physician. In many instances we bestow far more attention, time and expense, on objects comparatively trivial, than on these. It is considered a point of importance to the farmer that he should select the best seeds for his vegetables, the best implements for his operations, and the best breeds of animals for his stock; and this is all as it should be. But is it not at the same time much to be regretted that we should deem the great biped, the lord and proprietor of the whole

establishment, to be worth so little attention in his rearing and preservation?

Beginning thus with the individual, the family, the vicinity and the State, we come to embrace the whole subject of *Hygiene*, or the means of promoting health, and preventing disease generally. This embraces the medical police of cities, quarantine regulations, &c.

One purpose of the work will be to give the public the earliest correct information of any prevailing sickness or epidemic in any portion of our widely extended territory, exhibiting all the known facts respecting its origin and character.

It would be well to expose and reject for something better, the numerous popular errors in theory and practice, relative to the domestic treatment of diseases. The receipts and prescriptions for most of our complaints, as they are published and extolled in our daily papers, to the injury of many who confide in their infallible pretensions, deserve, and shall receive attention.

These will be the principal, but not the sole objects of the Medical Intelligencer. Knowing that men cannot long relish one diet, however good, corporeal or mental, without variety or change, we shall reserve a place for miscellaneous mat-

ter, to be filled with anything which our friends may supply, or we can manufacture or select, for entertainment or use. Whatever the literary market of London or Paris can furnish, suited to our plan, we have made arrangements to import, to appropriate and diffuse. After the present week we shall return to the unassuming half sheet of eight pages only. If encouraged, the paper will in due time, we hope soon, grow larger; but if destined to fall, its descent will be the more easy and tolerable in proportion to its levity.

One common evil in printing, with the printer's leave, we will avoid,—the use of illegibly small types. These types are fit only for the modern invention of pocket editions, and these should never be taken out of the pocket, or off the shelf, unless it be to show a splendid outside, or piece of engraving. We should have too much respect for the works of the Almighty to think it wise or profitable to put out the eye in order to enlighten the mind; for we know that spirit does not inhabit this earth without the union of matter, and that neither can act well unless both prosper together, by and through each other. Man is a compound unit, and is to be treated as such.

In one respect the editor feels satisfied with the course he has been

in the habit of pursuing; he has never bowed in implicit deference to any name, authority, sect, school or establishment, ancient or modern, living or dead; and this freedom of thinking, speaking and writing agreeably to the dictates of one's own mind, will be found by all so pleasant and useful, when not abused, that he is more disposed to recommend it to those who have not yet tried it, than to relinquish it himself. He who pretends to cater for the public taste and instruction, should consult every source of information, estimating each according to the value of its products, that he may be just to all, and be the better enabled to impart what is needed to all. As his object, however, is improvement, and as he does not expect soon, either in his editorial or personal capacity, to arrive even at an attainable degree of perfection, he will be grateful in the meantime for any good counsel, for a friendly suggestion, or any direct aid in accelerating his progress.

As little use will be made of technical language as is consistent with a clear and concise style, and any word or phrase, which may be employed in any number of this paper, not to be found in an English dictionary, shall be fully explained in the same number, under the head of Dictionary.

TO THE PHYSICIANS OF THE UNITED STATES.

GENTLEMEN—The value of human existence is to be estimated by our capacities for action and enjoyment; take these away and man is reduced, not only to the lowest grade of ani-

mal life, but even below the *sensitive* plant, if there be such a plant. The possession of these capacities seems every where to imply the obligation to cultivate, preserve and apply

them to the performance of the great duties and purposes of living.

It is but recently that the body has been thought to be worth attention, or that physical culture is the basis of all natural, rational, and successful education. Still the animal mechanism and economy are but very partially understood,—their improvement as a branch of education but little felt or aimed at; and their influence, in connexion with intellectual and moral instruction and discipline, on the health, resources and happiness of individuals, very rarely exhibited in real life.

To perceive the intimate union between these portions of the human being, their constant influence on each other, and the immense advantages which must result from attending equally to each and at the same time, in the business of education, seems to belong somewhat peculiarly to the studies, observations, and experience of our vocation. Let physicians then render to the public the service which is within their power, and consequently within their obligation.

To render the human frame and organization as perfect as human skill and effort can make them, to preserve them in firmness and activity, and to secure and prolong their good agency over life, its labors and enjoyments—is the work to be attempted in this publication, and in which I invite your cooperation and assistance. If on the one hand we cannot accomplish all we wish, we shall not on the other, do what is practicable without a beginning, and such persevering efforts as we are capable

of making. In this progress, begin and stop where we may, of one thing we are sure, that he who labors to benefit others, is laying the best foundation for his own happiness.

I am fully sensible that my efforts to make this paper *generally* useful, and worthy of your approbation, will be materially aided by your countenance and contributions. An annual history, for instance, of the constitution of the seasons, and the diseases which the physical character of the year has occasioned or prevented, throughout an extensive continent, must be the joint result of the reports of many individuals. The first step towards safety is the perception of danger, and in proportion as the inhabitants of the various districts and portions of our country become acquainted with the local and general causes which impair health, or induce disease, the better prepared and disposed will they be to guard against their effects. These sources of sickness are best noted, and their correctives pointed out by observers on the spot. When this information shall be generally diffused among the people, and those localities shall be known which most promote health, persons who are seeking a change of residence for the recovery of health, will readily be able to decide on what situations will best effect their object.

Connected with this subject facts daily occur, and observations are made, which would furnish valuable matter of admonition and instruction. Much of this information is lost to the community because it is not recorded at the time, and afterward

published and preserved for use. There can be no doubt that medical and other observers of accuracy and reflection, could often find time and inclination to collect and transmit valuable information of this sort which all might understand and turn to good account, if they could readily find a suitable vehicle for their communications. This paper is presented to their notice as such a medium and repository. To be useful in this way, elaborate dissertations and essays are not requisite. The statement of a single fact, the relation of a single case, incident, or casualty, arising from an error, or some source of danger which might be foreseen and avoided, will always be gratefully received and duly attended to.

Though the character and objects of the Medical Intelligencer are somewhat changed, it is hoped that the physicians who already take it, will not find its value and interest to be diminished. If it shall dwell less on the *curative* part of medical science, it will treat more largely of *prevention*, which is better for the people, if not for the faculty. If these pages should ever lessen the number of your patients, it will be their endeavor to make your attendance on those whom you may have,

more satisfactory to yourselves and beneficial to them, by teaching the sufferer what he owes to himself and his physician when sick, and under his direction. They who estimate most highly and consequently most truly, the advantages of being well, and who best understand and observe the rules of preserving health, will be most likely to be consistent, and to behave well when sick; for they will select only that physician whom they can trust, and whose prescriptions they purpose to obey. If *prevention* is in general not so good for us as *cure*, it will nevertheless be good in our own families, and for those particular friends for whom we practise without pecuniary compensation, and especially for the poor who pay nobody.

Whatever success may attend our preventive labors, there will yet remain ample scope for the exercise of all your curative skill and resources. I shall be happy to work with you in both these fields of promise and good fruit,—not unwilling to lead you if I can, but if not, still gratified to occupy any place in your ranks, so far and with so many of you as shall truly constitute a Pioneer Corps in the cause of humanity and science.

THE EDITOR.

ESSAYS AND OBSERVATIONS.

ENERGETIC PRACTICE.

Some physicians are fond of being thought men of unusual penetration and promptness of decision. They like to seem to see through an impenetrable mist at a glance, and to remove a mountain of disease by a single pill or powder, struck out and

administered in an instant, as if with the quickness and certainty of instinct. But these are dangerous practitioners. It is always a good sign to see a physician take time to deliberate coolly and fully before he makes up his mind, though at the risk of being supposed to be puzzled

and unable to comprehend the case. The sick and their friends would do well to consider the difficulties which the physician has to encounter in the treatment of many of his patients, and they should assist and commend him in the efforts he makes to discharge his duty faithfully and independently.

He who orders medicines abundantly must know a good deal not to do mischief, and he should well deliberate whether the dose to be given will cooperate with the disease to destroy the patient, or take part, as a friendly ally, with the remaining powers of life, against the inroads of the malady.

He who rashly thrusts about him on all sides the twoedged weapons of the *materia medica*, is more likely to inflict a wound than to heal one. The opposite error constitutes the French *médecine expectante*, in which the physician looks on without interfering till nature decides the contest in her own favor, or sinks in her efforts to do so.

Every morbid affection may be regarded as an effort of the constitution to relieve itself from some derangement of the system. These efforts, without the assistance of art, are frequently sufficient to accomplish their object. These efforts of the powers of life may be excessive and require restraint, by abstinence, rest, depletion, by cooling and diluting drinks; or they may be feeble, unequal to their task, and require aid and support.

Now it is the business of the physician to understand the intentions of nature, and to ascertain the ends she has in view, so that when he does interfere, it may be to cooperate with the restorative reaction of the system to remove the disease and restore health. He who most clearly comprehends the natural indications of cure, will be more likely to succeed in his attempts to accomplish them.

PREPARATION OF FOOD.

We hope to be assisted by our fair, or better efficient, or best fair and efficient countrywomen in meliorating our present style of cookery. This art, as it respects the making of palatable and wholesome food out of cheap materials, is an object of far greater importance to the individual and the nation, than has been imagined. Most of the treatises on this subject are filled with receipts and processes for dressing food by far too rich, complicated and expensive for general use, health, or economy. When the rich man is about to feast his friends and neighbors, he has the means of hiring one of the few professional cooks in the country; but this is an affair of very little importance or benefit to anybody excepting the cook and his employer. What we need is an improvement in the prevalent modes of preparing the daily meals of the great mass of the people of all classes, particularly of the lower.

We shall therefore thankfully receive any receipt which has been tried and found to answer a good purpose in our view of the subject,—for we have not time to prove all that is doubtful in order to reject what is useless. The American lady who shall teach her sex how to boil a potatoe, will deserve public honors and a civic crown. This at first may seem to be a reward above the merit of the discovery, but on reflection it will be found otherwise. There are, we will suppose, ten millions of potatoes put into the pot every day in these States, of which probably not more than two millions come out fit to eat. Now the difference between seven or eight millions of potatoes well or ill cooked daily, in point of relish, nutrition, economy and national wealth, is no small concernment, especially if we multiply the amount by 365, to make it a yearly statement. We know that soil, climate and season have their favorable or unfavorable influence

on this vegetable, but it is still true that bad cookery spoils more potatoes otherwise good, than all the droughts, inundations, heats and colds, and bad soils in this country. Count Rumford, in one of his essays, speaking of potatoes, as much in reference to the mode of boiling them, as of their native properties, says an Englishman knows nothing of the luxury of an Irish potatoe. When shall we know this luxury? This is but one article of diet; and the same may be said of most others.

Some poor persons and miserable cooks throw away, from prejudice, ignorance, or pride, what a rich cook, who understood his or her business, would make a feast of. This is one source of poverty and wretchedness which a knowledge of cookery would eradicate. Some writer, among other definitions, has styled man *a cooking animal*, but there is great reason to doubt whether half the race are entitled to this honorable and distinctive mark of preeminence. In order to set an example which it is hoped will be followed by others, we begin by giving the receipt for making a palatable gruel.

Take a tablespoonful of wheaten flour, or meal, if preferred, and the same quantity of rice whole or ground; if whole, let the rice be thoroughly washed in warm water. These ingredients are to be boiled for at least fifteen minutes in a sufficient quantity of water to make a quart of gruel; that is, to have a quart of the gruel left after evaporation. Salt, sugar and milk are to be added, or the milk may be omitted, to suit the taste and stomach of the consumer. If the gruel is too thick and nutritious in any particular instance, dilute it with water; if too thin, make it thicker next time. This preparation, if duly respected and taken into favor, would soothe many an aching stomach and morbidly sympathizing head and system while doing penance for having vio-

lated the law of moderation in quantity, and simplicity in quality. This good effect we have once felt and several times seen. It has been frequently noticed that this gruel has been readily taken by children laboring under puking and disordered bowels, when arrowroot, ricewater, &c. have been rejected.

MESSAGES TO PHYSICIANS.

These are frequently so clumsily delivered and received, as to occasion mistakes and disappointment both to the practitioner and patient. The doctor, for instance, may be requested to call at a Mr Smith's in Ann Street, while nothing can be learnt of his first name or occupation, &c., nothing to identify the individual, for it may be that the physician attends two or three families or individuals of the name, in the same street. The servant who delivers the message, instead of mentioning the number of the house where he wishes the physician to call, or leaving any other particular information which would enable any one to find the door sought, suddenly departs saying the doctor knows, he was there yesterday, or something of this sort, so vague and indefinite as not to solve any of the doubts of the hesitating physician, when he gets the message.

Under these circumstances the physician sometimes sets out to find the place sought,—he rings at many doors, makes as many inquiries, but after all returns disappointed, vexed by somebody's stupidity, and completely unsuccessful. At another time he waits at home for a second message to explain the first, and the latter never comes. While he is thus waiting in suspense, the sick man, impatient and displeased, supposing at the same time that the message was duly received and understood, concludes that the doctor is negligent or disinclined to visit him, and sends off for another medical attendant. This is particularly

vexatious where the physician first sent for has not half so much business as he needs and is anxious to obtain; and this is no uncommon occurrence in these times when doctors are as numerous as bilberries and patients as rare as peaches.

Every physician in town has a slate, and when he is not seen himself, it is always best to write fully and minutely what is requested. When the messenger cannot write, he should be properly instructed how to do his errand. To send the request in writing would often prevent much delay and embarrassment, and when the hour is immaterial to the patient, it is frequently quite an accommodation to the physician to be permitted to select his own time for making the visit. And lastly, when the physician does not appear, as might have been expected, it is well to send once more to be sure that he has received and comprehended the first message; if this has been the case, and he remains indifferent or negligent, the sooner another is then sent for, the better.

The agent who attends to the physician's business in his absence, should perseveringly interrogate the messenger so long as any point remains doubtful, and till he could himself go and put his hand on the patient's door, that he may, in his turn, give all this information to the physician on his coming in.

At 2 o'clock, the common hour of dining in this place, the physician is often interrupted by the collector's calling for the payment of some small bill, or other trivial concern, on the annoying pretence that he cannot be found at home at any other time. Considering that the medical practitioner is, for sufficient reason, liable to be called from his bed, and to be suddenly taken from his social enjoyments, when he permits himself any indulgence of the kind, his meals should be regarded as sacred, and not to be disturbed except in such cases of sickness as require immediate attention.

FLANNEL.

The following observations on the use of flannel as an article of clothing, appear at the end of Dr John Armstrong's paper on Pulmonary Consumption, published a few years ago in London. We know them to be accurately true from personal experience.—ED.

When flannel is worn next the skin Dr Barlow remarks, it is almost invariably the practice to keep it on by night as well as by day. This is not only unnecessary, but injurious. The chief advantage of using a flannel dress next the skin results, not from the actual warmth imparted or retained, an effect which might be obtained to an equal extent by an increase of outward clothing; but from the uniformity of temperature thus ensured to so large a portion of the surface of the body and the tendency which this has to keep the highly important, but too much neglected functions of the skin, in an active and healthy condition. During the day the frequent, and oftentimes sudden vicissitudes of our climate are such as to render the effects of flannel in preserving an equality of temperature most valuable. But at night, and during sleep, we are subject to no such vicissitude; consequently the same necessity for the use of flannel does not then exist. But while the use of flannel at night thus appears to be unnecessary, there are several considerations which show it to be injurious. These considerations regard both the condition of the body and of the flannel itself. Whatever the wants of the body for warmth during the night may be, they are in general fully supplied by the bedclothes in ordinary use. The body requires no extraordinary warmth during sleep; on the contrary, there is at such times even a tendency to an increase of the natural warmth. When to this natural tendency the heat caused by flannel worn next the skin is superadded, the effect is to keep the skin in a state of considerable excitement, and

to induce perspiration more or less profuse. These effects are not calculated to prepare the body for enduring the vicissitudes of the ensuing day, but rather to render it more susceptible of injury. Again, continues Dr Barlow, the property which renders woollen cloth so eminently suited to the purposes in view, is that of its being a slow conductor of heat. This property is directly proportionate to its dryness; and is greatly impaired by its imbibing humidity of any kind. A flannel dress, however, that is worn next the skin throughout the night, becomes so charged with perspiration that its power of conducting heat is thereby greatly increased, and its preservative effects proportionably diminished. Here then is a twofold injury resulting from the prevailing practice of continuing the flannel dress during sleep; namely, a diminution of the preservative powers of the flannel, and an increased susceptibility of the skin. By laying aside the flannel dress on going to bed, and substituting one of coarse calico, the body is kept in that temperature during the night which fits it for encountering the vicissitudes of the following day, while the flannel is preserved from the deteriorating effects of the nightly perspiration, and is resumed in the morning in a state which contributes both to comfort and protection. A difficulty, Dr Barlow subjoins, is experienced with most people who have accustomed themselves to the nightly use of flannel, in inducing them to alter the habit. Fear of taking cold creates one great obstacle; and disinclination to the feeling of cold experienced at the moment of changing the flannel for the calico nightdress, especially in winter seasons, is another. Confidence in the medical adviser, however, is sufficient to overcome the first, and a very little experience to remove the latter; for after a very few trials the proposed change is found to

prove a decided gain, even on the score of sensation, and the gratification derived from resuming a dry and comfortable flannel in the morning, together with the sensible increase of its utility during the day, are found to compensate amply the slight unpleasantness attending the momentary exposure of the preceding night.

Dr Barlow justly observes, that in many instances, the best interests of mankind, whether we consider their physical or moral welfare, are influenced by circumstances which the world are pleased to deem trivial; but the above suggestions on clothing will not be regarded as such by those who can appreciate the importance of the subject to which they relate, or the talents of the individual from whom they proceeded. These suggestions indeed of Dr Barlow relate to the prevention of disease in general, but to that of phthisis in particular, the pathology of which I have proved to be closely connected with the skin; and to show how the state of this organ may influence the cure of this disease, it is worth mentioning, that I recently received, from a respectable correspondent, an account of two cases resembling phthisis, which were arrested; the one by an attack of pemphigus, and the other by that of smallpox.

The Influence of Civic Life, Sedentary Habits, and Intellectual Refinement, on Human Health, and Human Happiness; including an Estimate of the Balance of Enjoyment and Suffering in the different Gradations of Society. By JAMES JOHNSON, Esq. Surg. to his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, &c. &c.

Preface.—The practical inferences contained in the following essay form a part of the result of twentyone years' extensive observation of man, in all stages of civilization and refinement, from the savage of

Nicobar to the philosopher of Europe. During the above period, as human health was the author's primary object of study, so the influences of *climate* and *modes of life* on this health, were important subjects of investigation.—The first part of this interesting inquiry, the influence of climate, has already passed the ordeal of public opinion and reception, in a manner that can leave but little doubt in the author's mind respecting the fate of the present work.

As he took the pains to observe, so has he claimed the privilege to think for himself; and if he has made no allusions to any man's writings on the subject of this essay, it is simply because he is not indebted to any man's ideas or experience in its construction.

The mass of observations, on which his positions are founded, were collected in active scenes of life, during personal visitations in many of the largest cities and societies of the world; and a considerable proportion of the morbid influences here delineated have been severely felt, *in person*, by the author. They are not, therefore, the creatures of imagination, or the theories of the closet. They are promulgated under the sole patronage of Nature and truth. The author's immortal namesake, Dr Johnson, has indeed remarked, that—"truth is *feeble* when it stands alone." The writer of this essay has not hitherto found it so. Truth is *immutable*, and consequently cannot be *feeble*. Like a solid tower or pyramid, it may be immersed and concealed, for a time, in the mist of ignorance or prejudice; but the light of reason ultimately dispels the cloud, and the structure bursts on our view, unsullied and unshaken.

Every individual, who has had the misfortune to exchange a state of health for that of sickness, will be able to appreciate the utility of a work in which the *preventive checks* to disease are clearly unfold-

ed, and legitimately deduced from actual and extensive observation. And as the author is not aware that any work has been expressly written on the important subject of the following essay, he confidently trusts that he shall hereby render some service to the community at large, but more particularly to his fellow citizens in this boundless and luxurious metropolis. That a candid examination of the principles, and a moderate adoption of the precepts here inculcated, would contribute greatly to the mitigation of human sufferings, and the preservation of human health, is the firm belief, and the ardent hope of THE AUTHOR.

London, Oct. 1, 1815.

Influence of Civic Life, &c.

In all ages man has evinced a *gregarious impulse*. As most animals do the same, and as the lower and weaker orders of these *seem* to associate for the sake of mutual defence, a similar object has been considered the reason of our species uniting and congregating in cities and societies. It would not appear, however, that *fear* is the principal operating cause of this impulse, either in man or animals. In the bosom of civilized society, and in the security of peace, we see this powerful inclination to associate, unfolded in every stage of life, from the cradle to the grave. It must, therefore, be a dictate of Nature and reason, for a contrary disposition is one of the characteristics of an insane mind.

Since man is led to this, as well as to all other objects, by his passions, it is necessary to trace and distinguish *these*, in order to ascertain the physical effects of civilization and refinement in the corporeal fabric, in congregated masses of society. This is an essential part of the investigation; for we shall find that the same springs of action which first draw men together, operate afterwards with increased power, as the magnet attracts stronger in pro-

portion as it comes nearer its object, or as the velocity of a falling body is accelerated as it descends.

What, then, is the prime mover towards civic association? THE INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS, OR THE DESIRE OF INTELLECTUAL INTERCOURSE. This is not only the strongest, but the earliest, the latest, and the steadiest impulse or propensity implanted in the mind of man—and of woman too. Love, ambition, avarice, each has its era; but the colloquial propensity begins with the infant's prattle, and only ceases when speech and hearing are obliterated by extreme age or infirmity. To be convinced of this truth, we have but to look around us in the book of Nature.—We shall here see it exemplified in every station of life, from the court to the cottage—from the crowd of the Exchange to the study of the philosopher, who converses with the dead and the living through the medium of books. Everywhere man seeks opportunities for collecting or transmitting ideas. The human mind is a vast emporium, wherein the rude materials, conveyed by the external senses, are manufactured, and, as in the kaleidoscope, perpetually involved into new forms and configurations.

The exchange of these manufactures seems to be the universal commerce of mankind—with this peculiarity, that we are generally more desirous to bestow than to receive.

This parent impulse having drawn men together, a host of new passions were, in consequence, developed, if not generated. Emulation, ambition, envy, hatred, jealousy, &c. were the inevitable results of the laws, regulations, and clashing interests which arose out of this state of things; and which in proportion as civilization and refinement advance, levy such severe contributions on our health and happiness. This last investigation is the great object of the present work, and is one of

high import and interest to every class of society.

In man we can clearly distinguish three leading systems or series of parts, with their appropriate functions. The first is the *organic system*, comprehending the heart and vessels which circulate the blood and other fluids—the lungs, the digestive organs, and the glands. These are not under the governance of the will, and perform their allotted functions, whether we sleep or wake. The second class comprehends all the *voluntary muscles*, by means of which we transport ourselves from place to place—construct our edifices and manufactures—lay waste empires in war, or cultivate the fields in peace! This is termed the *animal system*. Last of all comes the *sentient and intellectual system*, the brain and nerves. The innumerable ramifications of the nerves, spread over the surface of the body, and crowded into the tissues composing the different organs of sense, convey to the brain, like faithful videttes, intelligence of every thing that passes in the world around us. From these impressions, the mind forms its ideas, its judgments, and its determinations. In the developement of this system man excels all other animals, as much as the sun excels, in size and splendor, the meanest planet.

Now these three systems, though apparently independent of each other, are yet linked in the strictest bonds of sympathy and harmony, and are perpetually influenced one by another. Thus, suppose a few grains of emetic tartar are introduced into the stomach, a part of the *organic system*. As soon as nausea takes place, the *animal powers*, or voluntary muscles are enfeebled, and the *intellectual system*, or that through which the soul is manifested, even of the proudest hero, feels the shock, and lies prostrate with its suffering companions in the *organic and ani-*

mal life. Shakspeare, that accurate observer of nature, repeatedly exemplifies this remark, and particularly in the celebrated dialogue between Brutus and Cassius, relative to Cesar.

He had a fever when he was in Spain ;
And when the fit was on him I did mark
How he did shake—
His coward lips did from their color fly ;
Ay, and that tongue of his that bade the
Romans
Mark him, and write his speeches in their
books,
Alas ! it cried—" Give me some drink Titinius,"
As a sick girl.

Let a sudden gust of passion or sense of fear, on the other hand, disturb the intellectual system ;—the heart palpitates, the function of digestion is suspended—the voluntary muscles tremble—all through sympathy with the great sensorium or seat of thought. In short, health and happiness, for though we may have health without happiness, it is impossible that we can have happiness without health, depend on a just equilibrium and harmony between the functions of these three systems ; and whatever disturbs this harmony, by impairing the functions of any one of these systems, deranges directly or consecutively the whole fabric, intellectual as well as corporeal.

And here, to prevent misconception, I take occasion to state what I mean by *intellectual system*. I protest against the doctrine of materialism from a conviction of its erroneous foundation and pernicious influence on society. Mind I consider as distinct from matter. It is an invisible agent, manifesting itself *solely* through the medium of the corporeal organs. When these last are deranged, the mental *manifestations* must also be deranged; but the mind itself remains unchanged, unassailable, imperishable. Even in insanity, it is not the mind which is deranged. Some portion of the brain is deranged, and then the mind can no more

manifest itself sanely, than a musician can bring forth harmonious notes from an untuned instrument. The mind, as it is not material, neither is it subject to disease or death—if we once admit that it is subject to the one, we must inevitably come to the conclusion that it is liable to the other! With the essence or nature of mind we are, and ever shall be ignorant. It is with the *corporeal* organs, through which it reveals its actions, that we have to do, and which I designate by the term *intellectual system*.*

(To be continued.)

THE FAMILY RECORD.

In a little book, appropriated for the purpose, should be recorded the birth of each infant, with his weight, and any peculiarity of structure or condition.

Once a year, on a fixed day, the height and weight of each child should be noted, with the annual changes in his progress, relating to his acquirements, general state, and character, physical and moral, and whatever else may be worth knowing in future life.

In this history should be recorded the time and the manner in which each individual may have passed through any of the diseases which we have once only, as chincough, measles, cowpock, &c.; so that, whenever one of the family is to leave home, he may not be in doubt in regard to any of these complaints.

This information would prevent any painful apprehension where there is no danger, and any unconsciousness of danger where it really existed. This record, which is ea-

* Dr Johnson has well improved his numerous opportunities for becoming eminent in his profession. He is distinguished for industry and zeal, accurate observation, and an independent mind. As a practitioner he is at once judicious and efficient,—as a writer, learned, animated and powerful. He publishes nothing which is not worth studying and applying to use.—ED.

sily kept, if continued to manhood, would furnish a complete natural history of each member of the domestic community, and might be of great value to the parent, the physician, or guardian, in the management of individuals under their care.

I have for a number of years kept such a record, and always find it more and more curious and interesting, and already perceive that it is becoming useful.

CURE OF A DEAF AND DUMB CHILD.

A boy, ten years old, who had been completely deaf from his infancy, was cured by M Deleau, a Parisian physician, by a method which has been tried with success before, the forcible injection of air into the cavity of the tympanum through the Eustachian tube. The particulars of the operation are not given, but it appears to have been accomplished without causing any inconvenience, and has proved completely successful. The development of the voice has been very gradual and difficult, and attended with many very singular phenomena. Before the operation he could not hear any noise, however violent; his countenance was dull, his gait sluggish, and his manners stupid. On the restoration of his hearing he testified great delight, took great pleasure in listening to all kinds of sounds, and was thrown into ecstasy by a musical snuffbox. It was long before he had an accurate conception of the direction of sounds. He very soon began to imitate simple sounds with his voice, such as the vowels a, o, and u, and words containing them, such as *papa*, *tabac*, *du feu*; but the more complicated sounds cost him great effort, and he succeeded in pronouncing a few of them, not without extraordinary contortion of all the organs of speech. Very little progress was made in teaching him pronunciation by the sounds merely, but with the aid of the written signs he advanced much more rapidly. He has now

been a year under tuition. "He can distinguish the characters of various sounds, knows when they come from a distance, avoids carriages and horses, opens the door when any one knocks, can appreciate musical rhythm, knows all the sounds of his language, can repeat by memory a certain number of easy phrases, and even reply to them, and finally executes by speech whatever his preceptor orders him." It is a curious circumstance, however, that he still continues to use signs only in communicating with other people on ordinary occasions; nay, instead of being gradually replaced by speech, his language of signs has become much more perfect and expressive. He entertains a profound contempt for the deaf and dumb children with whom he used formerly to associate.

—*Journal de Physiologie.*

INFLUENCE OF EXERCISE, DIET, &c. ON RESPIRATION.

It has been found that the quantity of air deteriorated by respiration in a given time, will vary with the degree of exertion made by the animal confined in it.

Thus Lavoisier states, that a man, under ordinary circumstances, consumes about 1,300 or 1,400 cubic inches of oxygen in an hour: but that if he be engaged in violent exercise, as in raising weights, the consumption may rise to upwards of 3000 inches in this time.

The practical inference to be deduced from this fact is obvious, namely, that when it is an object to economise the oxygen of the air, we should remain tranquil. It was accordingly observed in the *blackhole* at Calcutta, that those who were quiet and orderly suffered the least. And in like manner it has been affirmed, that a person who falls into the water in a state of *syncope* will remain a much longer time submerged with impunity than one who is in a condition to exert his muscular energies.

The proportion of oxygen consumed by respiration appears moreover to be influenced by the nature of the *diet*.

Thus Mr Spalding, the celebrated diver, found that he consumed the oxygen of the atmospheric air contained in his divingbell in a much shorter time when he used a diet of *animal food*, than when he used one of *vegetables*; and therefore he made it a rule to confine himself to the latter when professionally employed. The same effect was observed by him to follow the use of *fermented liquors*; and therefore on these occasions he in like manner drank nothing but hot *water*.

The consumption of oxygen during respiration seems also to be influenced by the state of the stomach, with respect to *fullness* or *emptiness*, &c. Thus it appears to be at its maximum while the process of *digestion* is going on, and at its minimum perhaps in the morning, when the stomach is empty and unemployed—a fact well known, in some of its consequences at least, to the Indian pearl-divers, who always abstain from every kind of food for many hours before their descent into the water.

From these remarks, independent even of more particular observation, the physician may gather how necessary it is to regulate strictly the *diet* and *regimen* of the patient in all cases where the pulmonary organs are morbidly affected.—See *Paris's Medical Chemistry*, p. 322.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER.

Among other things we say, that you must not let *mind* wear out *body*, which I suspect you are a little inclined to do. Mind is very hard on his yokefellow, sometimes speaking contemptuously of her, as being of a low, mean family, in comparison with himself; often abridging her food, or natural rest, for his whims. Many a headache has he given her when, but for him, she would have

been quietly resting in her bed. Sometimes he fancies that she hangs as a dead weight on him, and impedes all his motions; yet it is well known, that though he give himself such airs of superiority, he can in fact do nothing without her; and since, however they came together, they are united for better or worse, it is for his interest as well as hers, that she should be nursed and cherished, and taken care of.

ANNA L. BARBAULD.

APPLICATION OF COLD WATER IN CROUP.

In Hufeland's Journal for April, 1825, this application is recommended in the form of cold affusion of the back, and cold bathing to the neck itself.

The cold affusion in this disease was first practised by Dr Harden, of Pittsburgh, on his own child. In this instance the patient is represented as having been nearly moribund, and recovered after the effusion had been repeated ten times. Professor Aberle, of Salzburg, has also communicated to the Salzburg Journal for 1822, a successful case. The patient, a child, already breathed with extreme difficulty, the danger of suffocation was imminent, the head was thrown back, the shoulders raised, the upper extremities cold, and the pulse intermitting. Though the professor did not see the patient till the fourth day, and under the circumstances just described, the cure was completed by the fourth application of the affusion. The employment of evaporating lotions to the neck itself is represented as equally useful. The difficulty of breathing gradually disappeared, a copious expiration of mucus mixed with blood and pus, occurring at the same time. The author of the article *Croup*, in the *Dictionnaire de Médecine*, has not spoken of this plan from experience, but is unsavourable to it from theory. It certainly is a bold practice; yet, when the disease appears hopeless, we should

advise its adoption. That a doubtful remedy is better than none, is an observation of Celsus, and no cases occur in which it would be more applicable than the last stage of croup. When the usual remedies have been employed unsuccessfully, and a fatal termination appears inevitable, no good ground exists for not recurring to a plan which may appear to afford a chance, however slight, of recovery. Such are indeed the circumstances under which, in general, new remedies ought to be tried; and the experience thus gradually obtained will lead, in the surest manner, to the determination of all questions of this kind.—*Lond. Med. Rep.* May, 1826.

TREATMENT OF TÆNIA BY CROTON OIL.

An Italian physician of the name of Puccinotti, has lately recommended the employment of the croton oil as a successful remedy in bad cases of tænia. He has not used it very often, but the results he has obtained justify the belief that it is a useful remedy when even the oil of turpentine fails, as it is certainly also a preferable remedy in respect to the facility of its administration. The following is an abstract of the only one of his cases which he has given in detail:—A man, 28 years old, had been liable to tænia for six years, during which time a great variety of the most active remedies had been tried by a physician of skill. Puccinotti recommended him to use the croton oil in the dose of one drop, taken in a little beef tea. The patient, following his instructions, lived sparingly for a couple of days, and took the medicine, while fasting, on the morning of the third day. It caused a slight sense of heat in the fauces, and, about an hour afterwards, began to operate as a mild laxative. He had eight stools in the course of the day, without pain, straining, or any uneasiness whatever, and discharged along with them a great number of fragments of tape-

worm. The dose was repeated after a day's interval, and this time it caused six stools, containing more fragments of the worm. For some days after this, the patient felt himself quite free from his former ailments, and convalesced rapidly. In a month, however, he was again taken ill with giddiness, tormina, and occasional discharge of joints of the worm. The croton oil was therefore resumed, with the same success as before; and it was repeated six times, with intervals of one or two days. He has not had any return of his complaint since.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, OCT. 3, 1826.

The Boston Gymnasium was opened on Thursday last, at 6 o'clock in the morning, for exercise and instruction. The principal Instructor is CHARLES FOLLEN, L. L. D., a pupil of the celebrated JAHN; the Assistant Instructor is GEORGE F. TURNER, A. B., of Virginia, recently a distinguished pupil in the gymnasium at Cambridge.

We have just received a number of books and a long letter from the excellent Gymnasiarch of Paris, Colonel AMOROS. This enlightened and generous philanthropist, though constantly occupied, has satisfactorily and minutely replied to some inquiries submitted to him some time since respecting the art and science which he teaches with equal credit to himself and benefit to the citizens of Paris.

A gentleman writes from London, that "gymnastics are now spreading the whole country,—for women as well as for men, and for little children as well as for both. I should remark here that vaulting the wooden horse and exercising on the triangle, are getting to be special favorites among the active and graceful exercises of the system. Incredible things are done every day, on both, by men who were

much too stately and dyspeptic, a few months ago, to lift their feet with a jump. They are cured now, —cured of dyspepsia, and cured of a worse fault, their absurd carriage. They sleep well, eat well, and look well, and what is more they behave well, since they are made happy by bodily exercise."

It is certainly a cheering improvement to exchange the privilege of being stately, helpless, out of health and humor, for a disposition to come down to the common movements and sympathies of society, and for the means and inclination of cultivating our capacities for action, vigor, usefulness, and enjoyment.

DICTIONARY.

Eustachian tube, a passage from the ear to the fauces, or back part of the mouth.

Fauces, the top and back part of the throat.

Materia Medica, all those substances and preparations which are used in removing disease and restoring health, whether vegetable, animal or mineral.

Maximum, the greatest, the reverse of minimum.

Nausea, sickness at stomach, inclination to puke.

Oxygen, the acidifying principle, the generator of acidity.

Pathology, the doctrine of diseases.

Pemphigus, a fever attended with the eruption of vesicles about the size of almonds, filled with yellowish water or serum, and which subside in three or four days.

Phthisis, consumption; *phthisis pulmonalis*, pulmonary consumption.

Regimen, that attention to diet, and exercise, and that regulated mode of living, which are suited to any particular course of medicines, and necessary to the restoration or improvement of health.

Sensorium, the brain, the organ of sensation and intellect, to which impressions made on the senses are conveyed.

Syncope, fainting.

Tormina, griping pains.

Tympanum, the drum of the ear.

—Typhus Fever, 1—Unknown, 1. Males, 17—Females, 8.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE VAPOR & SULPHUR BATHS at 3, Central Court, are open every day from early morning, till 10 o'clock, P. M. The medical superintendent attends to their application from 12 to 1 o'clock, and if previously notified may be consulted at other times, at the bathing-house, or at his own, a few steps distant. The best time for taking either bath is from 11 o'clock, A. M. to 2, P. M. The next best hour is that before breakfast, or before tea, after the previous meal has been nearly or quite digested.

MEDICAL SCHOOL IN BOSTON.
THE LECTURES at the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL COLLEGE, in BOSTON, will commence on the third Wednesday in November.

Anat. and Surg. by DR WARREN.

Chemistry, by DR GORHAM.

Midwifery and Med. Jurisprud. by DR CHANNING.

Materia Medica, by DR BIGELOW.

Theory and Practice of Physic, by DR JACKSON.

The advantages for attending Hospital practice at this Institution, are considered equal to those afforded in any city of the United States.

JEFFERSON COLLEGE.
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT IN PHILADELPHIA.

THE Board of Additional Trustees, appointed according to the Act of Assembly of this Commonwealth, to superintend the Medical School in Philadelphia, announce that the several Courses of Medical Lectures will be commenced on the second day of November next.

The Trustees are assured that the means of Instruction and Illustration, the conveniences of the Building in the use of the Faculty, and the opportunities of witnessing Clinical and Surgical Practice, and Practical Anatomy, will not be inferior to those enjoyed by students at any other Medical Institution.

According to the provisions of the Act of Assembly, no Matriculation Fee is demandable, and no Professor is entitled to charge more than 15 Dollars for admission to his Lectures.

No degree of Doctor of Medicine can be conferred, unless the candidate shall have actually studied Medicine for the term of three years, under the direction of a reputable practitioner; shall be of full age, and shall have attended at least two full Courses of Lectures at this Institution,

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Bursting blood vessel, 1—Bilious Fever, 1—Consumption, 4—Cholera Infantum, 1—Dysentery, 4—Debility, 1—Dropsey in the head, 1—Drowned, 1—Fits, 1—Hooping Cough, 1—Intemperance, 1—Infantile, 2—Incipient Phthisis, 1—Liver Complaint, 1—Suicide, 1—Slow Fever, 1

or one at this, and one at another respectable College.

JAMES M. BROOM,
President pro tempore of the Board of
Additional Trustees.
E. INGERSOLL, Sec'y.

AMERICAN MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY.
THIS contemplated work is in progress, and a prospectus and subscription will be arranged and presented to the public so soon as materials can be collected. Those gentlemen who will be kind enough to furnish materials for the work are respectfully requested to forward their communications to the publisher of this paper, or to Dr Thacher, Plymouth, the intended author, as soon as may be convenient.

**UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF
NEW-YORK,**
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

THE Trustees have the satisfaction to announce that the Honorable the Regents of the University have filled the vacant Professorships in this Institution, and that the College will be opened on the first Monday of November next, by an Address from the President. The respective courses of Lectures in the following order, viz.

JOHN AUGUSTINE SMITH, M. D. on *Anatomy and Physiology.*

ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D. on *the Principles and Practice of Surgery.*

JAMES F. DANA, M. D. on *Chemistry.*

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D. on *the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.*

EDWARD DELAFIELD, M. D. on *Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.*

JOHN B. BECK, M. D. on *Materia Medica and Botany.*

The Trustees are assured that the several courses of instruction will be full and complete, and that the means of illustration will be ample.

The students who have already attended Lectures in this Institution, are notified that the changes which have taken place in the College will not deprive them of any privileges or facilities heretofore enjoyed.

In conformity with the ordinances of the Honorable the Regents, of the University, and the Laws of the State of New-York, every Student is required to

attend two full courses of all the Lectures delivered in the College, before he can be admitted as a candidate for the Doctorate; unless said Student shall have attended Lectures in this College prior to the Session of 1822-3, or shall have attended one entire course of Lectures delivered in some incorporated Medical School or University.

The candidate must also have studied three years with some respectable practitioner of Medicine, and have arrived at the age of 21 years.

In announcing the new organization of the College and its first session in November next, the Board of Trustees believe that the high expectations of the Profession and the Public will be fully realized, and sustained by the distinguished reputation and talents of the several Gentlemen who have been appointed to fill the respective professorships.

By order of the Board of Trustees,
JOHN WATTS, Jr. M. D., Pres.
NICOLL H. DERING, M. D., Regist.

MODERN PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

IN the press, and will shortly be published by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184, Washington-St., a new and greatly improved edition of the MODERN PRACTICE OF PHYSIC, by JAMES THACHER, M. D. A. A. S. Author of the American New Dispensatory, and Observations on Hydrophobia. To this work is prefixed an interesting history of the rise and progress of Medical Science in the United States, detailing in the order of their respective organization, an account of the Medical Schools, with the names of the Professors and number of students in each, together with the expenses and terms of admission and graduation in the several schools. In treating of the diseases in this work, the author has consulted those European authorities which are considered of the highest standing at the present day; as Good, Parr, Thomas, Armstrong, &c. But, as relates to the epidemic and other diseases peculiar to our own country, precedence has been given to American authors, as the most correct and sure guides to American practitioners. The author expresses a confident hope that this work will be found to comprise a mass of practical knowledge that will meet the approbation of the profession, and prove particularly useful to the young practitioner.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, for the Editor, John G. Coffin, M. D., at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St., to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid).—Price two dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, two dollars and a half will be required, and this will, in no case, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$ 1 a square.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D. EDITOR.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1826.

NO. 21.

The Influence of Civic Life, Sedentary Habits, and Intellectual Refinement, on the Organic System and its Functions; On the Digestive Organs, through the Medium of Food.

The first law of Nature is, "Eat or be eaten." Life can only subsist by death. Every organized being, and particularly man, slays thousands of other organized beings, either in the vegetable or animal kingdom, to build up or maintain his own corporeal fabric. The doctrine of transmigration, therefore, is not entirely visionary.

With ceaseless change the restless atoms pass,
From life to life a transmigrating mass;
Hence the same organs which today compose
The poisonous henbane or the fragrant rose
May, with tomorrow's sun new forms compile,
Frown in the Hero—in the Beauty smile!

A single glance over the various nations of the earth will convince us that man is completely an *omnivorous* animal. The human stomach will draw nutriment from the ground we tread on, when imbued with animal and vegetable remains; and from every thing else between this fare and that of the most pampered London Epicure! This wonderful power of the digestive apparatus to assimilate everything which air, earth, or ocean yields, to the support of man, is a striking proof of the wisdom as well as the beneficence of our Creator. But it is most erroneous in principle, and pernicious in practice, to infer from this, that because we *can* eat all things, we therefore *may* eat all things with impunity. And here one

of the evils of civilization becomes manifest. Not only is everything that can allure the sense, or stimulate the appetite, brought to view in congregated society; but the "dishes tortured from their native taste" are indulged in by those who, of all others, are least capable of digesting them. The ploughman, exposed at all seasons to the inclemencies of the skies, and strenuously exercising his voluntary muscles, might gormandize with safety an alderman's fare. But not so the citizen, however well trained in the school of Epicurus. His sedentary life, and a host of moral and physical circumstances around him, render it a matter of impossibility that *repletion* shall not succeed even an apparently temperate regimen; and in reality this repletion, and the irregular states of plethora which thence result, characterize ninetenths of the diseases of civilized life, though they assume the garb of debility, and too often lead to the most erroneous and unsuccessful methods of treatment. Every one, after a full meal, especially of animal food, with all the etceteras of a civic table, must have felt how incapacitated he was for either mental or corporeal exertion. It is a law, indeed, in the economy of the living machine, that where any *one* of the three systems above mentioned is overexerted or overexcited, one or both of the other two systems must fall into a state of irregular or deficient action. The heavy meal of animal and other food exemplifies this law. When the digestive organs and circulating vessels are strongly engaged, the muscular and the intel-

lectual systems are indisposed towards the full exercise of their functions, the greater portion of vital energy being then apparently concentrated in the *organic* system, the principal theatre of operations for the time. On the other hand, let the animal system or voluntary muscles be thrown into violent or unusual action—the digestive process is diminished or even suspended, and the mind is incapable of dwelling intently on any train of thought. Who could solve a mathematical problem immediately after a furious cricket match? Again: Let a man sit down to an intricate calculation, or the investigation of an abstruse literary subject—nay, even to the perusal of an interesting poem or other effusion of genius, and the appetite will be so withdrawn, that the hour of dinner will be scarcely remembered.

This law of irregular or unequal excitement of the system, hitherto so much overlooked, unfolds the most important views both in health and disease; and he who studies it deeply, will find herein a powerful engine in the healing art, and a steady light on his researches, both physical and philosophical.

But to return. The evil consequences of *repletion*, or luxurious living, far exceed belief, or even the calculation of the physician; for they metamorphose themselves so artfully, and mask themselves so successfully behind unsuspicous forms and phenomena, that they are constantly undermining the constitution, deceiving the patient and misleading the practitioner.

Observation has proved, that when a stimulating substance is applied to any part of the body, internally or externally, a sensation or irritation is first produced, and then an increased afflux of blood in the vessels of the part. The sensation or irritation shows, that the *nervous* or sentient system of the part is first acted on; the turgescence evinces, that the vascular or *bloodvessel* system is

next affected. Now, in the present state of society, and particularly of civic society, the whole internal surface of the digestive organs is daily stimulated, *in an inordinate degree*, not only by the poignant and complicated qualities of our food, but also by the quantity. If there be any truth in medical science more firmly established than all others, it is this! Let us look around us, in this great and luxurious metropolis, for instance, and we shall not find one in ten, whose digestive organs are in a natural and healthy condition. The tint of the eye and countenance, the feel of the skin, the state of the tongue, the stomach, the bile, and the various evacuations, offer to the experienced and discerning physician the most incontestable proofs of the position here advanced.

OF ANTIMONY AS AN EMETIC.

Antimony is too active and powerful, and approaches too nearly to the nature of a poison, to be used with safety as a *domestic* remedy.

Another source of uncertainty and danger in using the preparations of this mineral, arises from the variable strength of these preparations.

Ten years ago I saw a child suffer long and severely from taking an overdose of *emetic tartar*, as a puke, directed by a physician; and since this period I have seen another child die after five weeks of deplorable suffering from an excessive dose of *antimonial wine* administered by her mother, without medical advice. No discreet parent, not educated to medicine, will go beyond the use of pulverized ipecacuanha, to excite vomiting, without consulting a physician, if one is to be had. Few customs are more grossly imprudent and reprehensible,—more injurious to health, and even dangerous to life, than that which many parents fall into, of prescribing large and active doses of medicine, without understanding the nature of the complaints for which they are given, or the

properties of the drugs which they so fearlessly and so rashly administer. Some good people, who have indulged this propensity till it has become a passion, are quite uneasy when they hear of a sick neighbor or acquaintance, till they can have a hand in the treatment of the case, and thus extend their depredations beyond the precincts of their own houses.

These disturbers of society are pleased to gain an influence over those whom they profess to serve, by exciting fear and apprehension, and can even delight in this cruel ascendancy provided only that they can be busy and important.—EDIT.

THE VAPOR BATH.

This mode of bathing has recently appeared among us with all the odium of being something new and not understood; and under the further disadvantage of having been introduced, as it is said, by a quack and impostor. It also presents itself to our notice under the questionable claims and pretensions of patent rights and privileges. But as these circumstances do not affect the properties of the bath, and as it is now within reach, we are disposed to give it a trial, and to speak of it as we may find it. In this state of feeling on the subject, and having early been persuaded that it was worth investigating, we were gratified to hear that Dr Gibney, of England, had published a work on this mode of bathing,* and immediately sent for his book. This gratification arose from having read, some years ago, an excellent treatise by the same author, on cold and warm sea-bathing. In the absence of the book we have been entertained with a review of it

in the Medical Recorder of April last, from which we feel disposed to lay the following extract before our readers:—

Within a few years, the attention of the medical profession, has been directed to the investigation of the effects of different gases and simple or medicated vapors, applied to the respiratory organs and external surface of the human body. These inquiries, which have been pursued with much diligence, and the numerous improvements developed in their progress, leave no room to doubt of the importance and fruitfulness of the subject. It is now about the time when we might reasonably expect from those who have been engaged in making observations, the fruits of their experience; and accordingly, Dr Gibney, of Brighton, who is already advantageously known by his treatise on baths in general, has favored the public with the information his very advantageous opportunities have enabled him to collect and embody.

His work he pronounces, a compilation of facts and observations, selected and arranged, with due reflection, and after his own manner, with a view to render the subject it treats of, better understood by practitioners. A daily inspection during many years, of the powers and influence of the vapor bath, on the great variety of diseases which one of the most celebrated watering places in England presents, appears to have confirmed him in the opinion of its superiority in most instances, over the usual mode of bathing. He regards it as a much more powerful agent, than the common fluid bath, and, therefore, very properly concludes, that its administration calls for more prudence and circumspection. He lays no claim to originality, as regards the principles on which vapors and gaseous substances are applied to medicinal purposes, and gives an interesting retrospect into their employment even in the

* A Treatise on the Properties and Medical Application of the Vapor Bath, in its different varieties, and their different Effects in various species of diseased Action. By J. GIBNEY, M. D. of the University of Edinburgh; Resident Physician at Brighton, and senior Physician to the Sussex County Hospital, and General Sea-Bathing Company. London, 1825.

days of Hippocrates, and afterwards successively by Celsus, Galen, and the Arabian physicians, but more especially among the inhabitants of the East, the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, by whom they have been employed both generally and topically, from the earliest times to the present day. Even among the frigid countries of the North, the practice has long been held in general estimation, and the vapor baths of Russia, Finland, Sweden, &c. are so universally resorted to as the promoters of health and comfort, that in some parts of these countries, a strict preclusion from them is used, and considered as a punishment of considerable severity. Should an Egyptian husband place such an interdiction on his wife, the measure would be regarded so cruel, as to subject him to general disapprobation. All this proves the common use and high estimation in which the application of simple or medicated vapors to the body is held, and makes it appear not a little singular that an agent so extensively known, should not have been resorted to, till lately, by the most enlightened nations in the world. Even in our own country the practice is pointed out, if we may be allowed the expression, by nature herself; since it enters into the simple *materia medica* of our aborigines, as one of their most common resources in disease. The process they employ is rude it is true, and consists in little else than exposing the body in a pit, to the steam, produced by throwing heated stones into water, containing certain vegetable substances; the principle is, however, the same, and the apparatus was greatly improved by the more civilized South Americans.

We are informed that the Mexicans used, and still use, a vapor bath, formed of raw bricks like an oven, with an opening at the top, the floor somewhat convex, and lower than the surface of the earth, the greatest diameter of which, according to the

Abbé Clavigero, was about eight feet, height six feet, the entrance just large enough to allow a person to creep into it, and the furnace supplying the heat situated on the outside. "The bather with his attendant, enter, close the door; and while he reclines on a mat, the attendant throws water on a hot porous stone, placed on the stove, from which a dense vapor arises, which he directs or drives downwards, and, with a bunch of maize, or herbs made moist, gently beats the invalid, particularly on the diseased part; a copious sweat follows, which is continued for a longer or a shorter time, according to circumstances."

After this description of the more improved vapor bath of the aboriginal Americans, we shall proceed to describe from Dr Pocock, the very celebrated *Turkish baths*, which we think will present less variation, in point of efficacy, than in regard to luxury. "One of the greatest refreshments among the Turks," says Dr Pocock, "is in going to their bagnios; in the first large room, generally covered with a cupola, they undress, and putting on their wooden pattens, which they use also in their houses, they go into the hot room, where they are washed and rubbed with brushes and haircloths; they rub the feet with a sort of grater, made of earthenware, somewhat resembling the body of a bird; they make all the joints snap, even the very neck, and all down the back, which they think makes the joints supple; after this they are shaved and go into the bath; from this place they return by a room not so hot, where they stay awhile and from thence go into the great room, repose in a bed, smoke their pipe, take their coffee, and dress." This, with little variation, is the plan pursued by the Persians, who, however, have two observances, which strikingly denote their respect for the forms of their religion, and their intolerance towards strangers; we al-

iude to their practice of performing their devotions on entering their bagnios, and their refusal to permit foreigners to go into them, which, after their admission would be deemed polluted.

To enumerate all the interesting particulars, mentioned by our author in the first chapters of his work, would carry us perhaps beyond our just limits. Suffice it therefore, to say that he has described the remote use of the vapor bath, among the Spaniards, and Irish: the sudatories from the natural fountains of Albano, Baia, Tivoli, and St. Germano in Italy, and of Carlsbad in Bohemia, all of which, with the preceding account, go to show the strong agency exerted by a combination of heated air, and water, both as a remedial resource in various conditions of disease and as a luxurious prophylactic.

The only claim, which can therefore be urged in favor of modern invention, relates to the mode of administering the vapor bath, by enclosing or incasing the body in a suitable apparatus, instead of the original method of exposure in a heated apartment. From the language of Lanchez, a celebrated Portuguese physician, who wrote about fifty years since, this appears to have been so great a desideratum, that we are not a little surprised at the tardiness with which human ingenuity has accomplished it. "Si l'on croit qu'il existe un remède commode et si efficace qui puisse guérir tous les maux dont les hommes sont souvent attaqués, ce n'est que dans les bains de vapeurs qu'il faut le chercher." And the celebrated Glauber, who perhaps studied the subject with less enthusiasm, but not less reason, long since proposed the application of the gas of sulphur to the surface of the body as a remedial resource, and has left a description of the necessary apparatus. To fix on the individual who made the first experiment of enclosing the body, and applying to it either a gas or vapor, would

certainly be no easy task, as every one has heard of, and seen some application of the principle on a small scale. In the city of Philadelphia, for instance, an apparatus for applying heated vapor to the body, was many years since, constructed by the ingenious Mr Peale, and there may still be found in the Pennsylvania Hospital, a contrivance long since used for enveloping the body in mercurial fumes.

To specify all the morbid and irregular conditions of the system, in which the simple or medicated vapor bath may be advantageously resorted to, either as a principal remedy or valuable adjuvant, could not be expected from our author, neither can it be looked for from us. The properties of the agent, when properly understood, must lead to its just application, on the same principles which govern the administration of other means. The good sense and discrimination of a physician will always be requisite to give the vapor bath its due effect, and he will find his own judgment of more advantage, as a guide, than a prolix detail of nice directions.

The concluding paragraph of the review is well expressed, and is matter of common sense and experience. A good number of facts and principles respecting the application and effects of this bath are fully ascertained and established; these need only to be modified and adapted to particular cases. This is medical art, and of consequence requires a medical agent. Our impressions and opinions of the action and effects of the vapor bath, after superintending its administration for nearly a year, correspond, so far as they go, with those of Dr Gibney. When properly applied, it is, at least, always safe and pleasant, and mitigates or cures more morbid affections than any other form of bathing.

SUPERSTITION.

It is not the least extraordinary feature in the history of medical su-

perstition, that it should so frequently involve in its trammels, persons who on every other occasion would resent with indignation any attempt to talk them out of their reason, and still more so, to persuade them out of their senses; and yet we have continued proofs of its extensive influence over powerful and cultivated minds; in ancient times we may adduce the wise Cicero, and the no less philosophic Aurelius, while in modern days we need only recall to our recollection the number of persons of superior rank and intelligence, who were actually persuaded to submit to the magnetising operations of Miss Prescott, and some of them were even induced to believe that a beneficial influence had been produced from the spells of this modern Circe.

Lord Bacon, with all his philosophy, betrayed a disposition to believe in the virtues of charms and amulets; and Boyle seriously recommends the thigh bone of an executed criminal, as a powerful remedy in dysentery. Among the remedies of Sir Theodore Mayerne, known to commentators as the Doctor Caius of Shakspeare, who was physician to three English Sovereigns, and who, by his personal authority, put an end to the distinctions of chemical and galenical practitioners in England, we shall find the bowels of a mole, cut open alive; mummy made of the lungs of a man who had died a violent death; with a variety of remedies, equally absurd, and alike disgusting.

It merits notice, that the medicinal celebrity of a substance has not unfrequently survived the tradition of its superstitious origin, in the same manner that many of our popular customs and rites have continued, through a series of years, to exact a respectful observance, though the circumstances which gave origin to them, have been obscured and lost in the gloom of unrecorded ages. Does not the fond parent still suspend the coral toy around the neck of her infant, without being in the

least aware of the superstitious belief* from which the custom originated? while the chorus of *derry down* is reechoed by those who never heard of the Druids, much less of the choral hymns with which their groves resounded, at the time of their gathering the mistletoe; and how many a medical practitioner continues to administer this sacred plant, *Viscus Quercinus*, for the cure of his epileptic patients, without the least suspicion that it owes its reputation to the same mysterious source of superstition and imposture? Nor is this the only faint vestige of druidism which can be adduced. Mr Lightfoot states, with much plausibility, that in the highlands of Scotland, evidence still exists in proof of the high esteem in which those ancient Magi held the Mountain Ash, *Sorbus Aucuparia*, for it is more frequently than any other, found planted in the neighborhood of druidical circles of stones, and it is a curious fact, that it should be still believed that a small part of this tree, carried about a person, is a charm against all bodily evils,—the dairymaid drives the cattle with a switch of the *Roanree*, for so it is called in the highlands; and in one part of Scotland, the sheep and lambs are, on

* The Soothsayers attributed many mystic properties to the Coral, and it was believed to be capable of giving protection against the influence of "Evil Eyes"; it was even supposed that Coral would drive away Devils, and Evil Spirits; hence arose the custom of wearing amulets composed of it, around the neck, and of making crowns of it. Pliny and Dioscorides are very loud in their praises of the medicinal properties of this substance, and Paracelsus says that it should be worn around the necks of infants as an admirable preservative against fits, sorcery, charms, and even against poison. It is a curious circumstance, that the same superstitious belief should exist among the Negroes of the West Indies, who affirm that the color of Coral is always affected by the state of health of the wearer, it becoming paler in disease. In Sicily it is also commonly worn as an amulet.

the first of May, ever made to pass through a hoop of Roanwood.

Paris's Pharmacologia.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, OCT. 10, 1826.

RECIPE FOR DYSENTERY AND CHOLERA MORBUS.

Put one ounce of castor oil, forty drops of laudanum, two grains of gum arabic, two grains of loaf-sugar, and a few drops of peppermint into half a pint of soft water, shake it well together, and give a grown person one tablespoonful every fifteen minutes. The above has been often used and with uniform success.

This is from a late number of the *Connecticut Herald*. If it is true that so important a result as this has been discovered, and the remedy found to be *uniformly successful*, it is hardly less remarkable that the fact should have been announced without note, comment, or congratulation. If this is true, the discoverer has not been less fortunate, and perhaps not less meritorious, than the almost immortal Jenner; for we think it will not be denied, that dysentery and cholera morbus destroy as many lives now, as smallpox did before vaccination. We do hope, therefore, that the Editor of the Herald,—happy name, will follow up this subject till he shall be able to give to the public that information for which they will naturally wait with so much impatience.

Every ingenuous heart must surely be eager to pour forth its grateful feelings on him who, having the opportunity, by the common expedient of a patent right, of amassing a splendid fortune merely by keeping his own secret in his own hands, has preferred to lay open his discovery without fee or reward, and to offer his remedy gratuitously to all who may need its healing and restorative influence. His modesty, too, is not less singular than his benevolence, for he has not yet even permitted himself to be known.

To aid the reader, however, in his attempts to comprehend what at first sight

will probably strike him as abundantly marvellous, and to establish some correspondence between the magnitude of the effect and the efficiency of the cause, we take the liberty of calling his attention, for a moment, to the fact, that two grains of sugar, and precisely the same quantity of gum arabic, are dissolved, suspended, and equally diffused throughout a whole half pint of soft water.

When we refer to the mother's share in early education, we feel astonished that the most important objects are so much neglected in the education of the female sex. Were they generally educated with a specific view to their afterwards filling some of the most important relations of domestic life, the next race, or, at farthest, that which follows, would be, without example, wise and good. If such were the views adopted in education, it would then be a primary object to cultivate their *understandings*; to give them solidity, accuracy, and comprehensiveness of judgment; and to store their minds with that correct and important information, which would enable them, in their turn, to train up their own offspring, or the offspring of others, in that way which would give them the greatest probability of being vigorous, healthy, and active in their bodily powers, and lay the best foundation for intellectual and moral excellence. A woman may not be a wife or mother, but she can scarcely fail, if properly prepared for these relations, to be led, in some way or other, to fill situations in life bearing considerable resemblance to them in their effects on the improvement and happiness of others.—*Lant Carpenter.*

AN ERROR IN OUR LAST.—*Typhus* fever for *typhous* fever. We are unwilling to give any quarter or currency to this gross and common blunder. If it were not for good company in a bad cause, it would be quite as disreputable and unpardonable to write typhus fever as *calculus* complaints, or *mucus* membrane.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF NEW YORK.

City of New York, 1st August, 1826.

THE late Professors of the College of Physicians and Surgeons having seen fit to withdraw from the Institution without thereby intending to relinquish their accustomed functions, have organized another Medical College in which all but

two of the former faculty take part, and the remaining vacancies are filled by gentlemen of distinguished fame and acknowledged ability.

All the means of instruction to be derived from an extensive cabinet of Anatomical and Surgical preparations, and a full supply of subjects for dissection; from valuable collections of Natural History, Botany, Mineralogy, and Chemical Apparatus, will be amply afforded in this College to the votaries of Medicine and Surgery.

OFFICERS OF THE COLLEGE.

DAVID HOSACK, M. D. F.R.S., President.

SAMUEL L. MITCHILL, M. D. L. L. D. Vice-President.

PETER S. TOWNSEND, M.D., Registrar.
PROFESSORS.

DAVID HOSACK, M. D., Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.

WILLIAM JAMES MACNEVEN, M. D., Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

VALENTINE MOTT, M. D., Professor of Surgery.

JOHN W. FRANCIS, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics and Forensic Medicine.

JOHN D. GODMAN, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

The Professor of Chemistry will be announced within the ensuing month.

The several Courses of Instruction will commence on the first Monday in November ensuing. Arrangements are made for conferring the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the usual manner. The reciprocity of an *ad eundem* standing is also established between this College and the University of Pennsylvania. The former pupils of the Professors will be admitted as heretofore, and the Medical officers of the United States' Army and Navy are invited on the same footing as graduates.

Published by Order,
DAVID HOSACK, M. D., President.

PETER S. TOWNSEND, M. D. Registrar.

* * David L. Rogers, M. D. will give Lectures and Demonstrations in Operative Surgery under the Professor.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.
THE Trustees have the satisfaction to announce that the Honorable the

Regents of the University have filled the vacant Professorships in this Institution, and that the College will be opened on the first Monday of November next, by an Address from the President. The respective courses of Lectures in the following order, viz.

JOHN AUGUSTINE SMITH, M. D. on *Anatomy and Physiology*.

ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D. on *the Principles and Practice of Surgery*.

JAMES F. DANA, M. D. on *Chemistry*.

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D. on *the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine*.

EDWARD DELAFIELD, M. D. on *Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children*.

JOHN B. BECK, M. D. on *Materia Medica and Botany*.

The Trustees are assured that the several courses of instruction will be full and complete, and that the means of illustration will be ample.

The students who have already attended Lectures in this Institution, are notified that the changes which have taken place in the College will not deprive them of any privileges or facilities heretofore enjoyed.

In conformity with the ordinances of the Honorable the Regents, of the University, and the Laws of the State of New-York, every Student is required to attend two full courses of all the Lectures delivered in the College, before he can be admitted as a candidate for the Doctorate; unless said Student shall have attended Lectures in this College prior to the Session of 1822-3, or shall have attended one entire course of Lectures delivered in some incorporated Medical School or University.

The candidate must also have studied three years with some respectable practitioner of Medicine, and have arrived at the age of 21 years.

In announcing the new organization of the College and its first session in November next, the Board of Trustees believe that the high expectations of the Profession and the Public will be fully realized, and sustained by the distinguished reputation and talents of the several Gentlemen who have been appointed to fill the respective professorships.

By order of the Board of Trustees,
JOHN WATTS, Jr. M. D., Pres.
NICOLL H. DERING, M. D., Regist.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D. EDITOR.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1826.

NO. 22.

OF DRINKS.*

As the introduction of solid aliment into the stomach is for the purpose of furnishing materials for the repair of the different textures of the body, so is a supply of liquid matter especially necessary to replace those various fluids which are constantly ejected from the body, during the exercise of its different functions. The necessity of this supply, as well as its quantity, are both indicated by a certain feeling which the want of it excites, named *thirst*. In this point of view, therefore, the drinks ought to be considered as real aliments; and, indeed, it is a question whether they may not undergo certain decompositions in the body, and be made to surrender elements for the formation of solid parts.† The chyme and chyle may also require the assistance of some liquid medium to favor the absorption of its finer and more nutritive parts, which, by increasing the fluidity of the mass, will expedite the numerous combinations it is destined to undergo. In every point of view, therefore, dilution is an essential operation; and an animal will not only endure the sensation of hunger with more tranquillity than that of thirst, but he will survive longer under the privation

of solid than of liquid aliment.* Unfortunately, however, those instincts which nature implanted in us for our guidance have been eradicated by the habits of artificial life: thirst is so rarely experienced, that the very sensation is associated with the idea of disease. The consequence is, that we have been abandoned to the control of our caprice in the selection and use of those agents,—a circumstance which has given origin to numerous disorders. The quantity of diluents which each person may require, will depend on individual peculiarity, climate, nature of the solid aliment, &c.

In appreciating the effects of liquids on the human body, there are several circumstances independent of the quality of the fluid which deserve some notice; such as temperature, volume, and the period of potation. Though fluids of the usual temperature of the air are grateful and congenial to a healthy stomach, persons disposed to dyspepsia frequently require them to be raised to the temperature of the body; for the stomach, not having sufficient vital energy to establish the reaction which the sudden impression of cold produces in a healthy condition, falls

* A Treatise on Diet: with a view to establish, on practical grounds, a System of Rules for the Prevention and Cure of the Diseases incident to a disordered state of the Digestive Functions. By J. A. PARIS, M.D. F.R.S. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, etc. etc.

† Fish, especially the cetaceous tribe, decompose water, and live on its hydrogen.

* REDI (*Osservaz. intorno agli Animali viventi, &c. No. 34*) instituted a series of experiments, with the sole view of ascertaining how long animals can live without food. Of a number of capons which he kept without solid or liquid aliment, not one survived the ninth day; but one to which he allowed water, drank it with avidity, and did not perish till the twentieth day. See our work on MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE, Art. "Death by Starvation," vol. ii. p. 57.

into a state of collapse, and is consequently unable to proceed in the performance of its requisite duties.* It deserves notice, however, that fluids heated much above the temperature of the body are equally injurious: it is true that they will frequently, from their stimulus, afford present relief; but it will always be at the expense of future suffering, and be compensated by subsequent debility. Iced fluids should not be taken, under any circumstances, by those who have delicate stomachs, especially after a meal, the digestion of which is thus retarded, or wholly prevented.

It is a popular idea that hot liquids injure the teeth. I entertain great doubts on the subject. Ribe, in a paper published in the *Amoenitates Academicæ*, observes, that "Man is the only animal accustomed to hot food, and almost the only one affected with carious teeth." This is far from being true; the term of life in all the graminivorous classes appears to be principally limited by the decay of teeth, and forms an insuperable obstacle to the prolongation of their existence much beyond the term when they have attained to the perfection of their kind.†

The quantity or volume of liquid taken at once into the stomach is a circumstance of material consequence. The reader must refer to that part of the work in which the

digestion of drinks is explained (81,) in order to understand the importance of the considerations which this question embraces. It is evident that, if the stomach be distended with fluid, the digestion of its solid contents must meet with considerable impediment; while, at the same time, it is said that the gastric juice becomes too dilute to fulfil the objects of its secretion. On this point I entertain some doubt; the secretions of the stomach are not very soluble in water; and it has been already stated (25) with what extreme difficulty the coagulating quality of the gastric membrane is removed by washing. Be this, however, as it may, it is evident, that if the solid matter be diffused through a large quantity of liquid, it cannot be acted on by the gastric juice; nor can it be converted into that pultaceous mass which appears to be a preliminary step to its digestion. On the other hand, if the food be too hard or dry, its necessary change by the churning of the stomach cannot be accomplished, and the progress of digestion will be impeded. It therefore follows, that different aliments will require different quantities of liquid to assist their chymification. Animal food demands, of course, a greater quantity of drink than vegetable food; roasted than boiled meat; and baked still more than roasted.

(To be continued.)

* This remark applies particularly to the residents of hot climates, whose stomachs are always more or less enfeebled. It appears that the Romans were in the habit of drinking tepid potations at their meals. See Juvenal, Sat. V. v. 63.

† In the elephant, who rivals, or perhaps exceeds man in duration of life, a peculiar provision is found to exist for the purpose of renewing the teeth. The grinding teeth, or *molares*, of the elephant, which consist each of a single piece of bone, intermingled with enamel, are so constructed as to continue growing from behind, in proportion as they are worn away in front by the process of mastication; so that their duration is coëval with that of the animal.

For the Medical Intelligencer.
TYPHUS SYNCOPALIS.

This disease, ever since its appearance at Medfield, Ms. in March, 1806, has been the cause of much speculation among the physicians of our country. It has received various appellations, but is very generally known under the name of *cold-plague*, or more frequently that of *spotted fever*. *Typhus syncopalis*, *sinking typhus* or *sinking fever*, from the *GASTRIC SINKING* (*subsidentia*, resembling syncope), which is the most prominent symptom in ordinary cases, ap-

pears to be less liable to convey any mistaken idea, and is now, therefore, generally adopted, as an appropriate name of this very singular disease. It is not described in any foreign, systematic writer, nor does it appear ever to have been noticed in Great Britain, till it broke out in the Milbank Penitentiary, near London, in 1823. In Johnson's Medico-Chirurgical Review, for July, 1825, there is an analysis of *An Account of the Disease lately prevalent at the General Penitentiary*. By P. Mere Latham, M. D., &c.

It seems that in 1822, the convicts for petty crimes in the Milbank Penitentiary, amounting to six or eight hundred, of both sexes, were put on allowance of food reduced in quality, if not in quantity, while the same degree of labor was still demanded. The consequence was, that many of the prisoners were soon affected with diarrhoea, and in the following winter a genuine sea scurvy made its appearance. These diseases, however, yielded to the usual treatment, with a proper diet and regimen. In the spring and summer of 1823, a new malady broke out, which at first confounded the medical gentlemen. From Dr Latham's very able description, it was evidently the *typhus syncopal*is or *sinking fever*, which for the last twenty years has been very common in New England, and at times has appeared in various other parts of our country.*

As in this country, *typhus syncopal*is is frequently blended with pneumonia, or dysentery, or cholera, or even with common typhus, so in the General Penitentiary, it was usually combined with dysentery. The paroxysms of gastric sinking are no where so accurately and forcibly described as by Dr Latham; as

will appear from the following extract:—

"The great majority, however, had some kind of perpetual uneasiness within the abdomen. There was a very general complaint of what was called *sinking at the pit of the stomach*. What this sinking is, those only know who have suffered it. All patients speak of it by the same name, but do not describe it further. From observing and interrogating those who now complained of it, I suspected it to consist of a certain degree of actual pain, combined with a feeling which is akin to approaching syncope, and spreads from the stomach, as from a centre, over the whole frame. *It is a painful and overpowering sensation, as if animal life itself was hurt and lessened.*

"Now, this sinking was not only present with the bowel complaint, but many suffered it alone, long before the bowel complaint arose; and many still suffered it, long after the bowel complaint was gone. In the one case, it gave notice that the disease was approaching, before its more characteristic symptoms arrived; in the other, it was evidence that, though its more characteristic symptoms had subsided, the disease had not actually ceased. That this painful and depressing sensation, among other severe sufferings, was often still the greatest of all, I infer from this consideration. Patients would continually endeavor to withdraw our attention from the more tangible symptoms of their disorder, for the sake of fixing it on this. When we interrogated them on circumstances apparently more urgent, they would interrupt us, and exclaim, *but this sinking, this sinking; pray do something for this sinking!*"

Aster all, though the characteristic symptoms by which this disease is identified with the *typhus syncopal*is of our country, are very plain and striking to the most superficial observer, yet it was a much lighter complaint, and yielded much more

* Within a few weeks past, the newspapers mention it under the name of *cold plague*, as being at Fort Adams, and near New Orleans. It is also prevailing in some towns of Connecticut.

readily to appropriate treatment, than most of our epidemics of sinking fever. It appears to have been very ably managed, the sinkings being subdued by brandy, opium, ether, ammonia, essential oils, &c., and the dysentery almost infallibly gave way to a free and decided employment of calomel and opium.

It is worthy of remark, that it is rare for a malignant disease to appear in any part of the world, without producing great excitement in the public mind. As much noise and clamor arose from the Milbank malady, as ever were made on the first bursting out of sinking typhus in any part of New England, or of yellow fever at the South. The same credulity, the same skepticism, exaggerated fears and reports, and the same emotions, were excited in both countries. The disease of the Penitentiary became the subject of Parliamentary investigation. So great was the alarm, that Dr Latham appears to have thought it expedient to suspend his publication for two years, till the public feelings had become quiet.

In another part of the same number, Dr Johnson recognized the affinity of the Milbank disease with the spasmodic cholera of India; and had he ever read Dr North, Dr Strong, or almost any of the periodical medical works of our country, for the last twenty years, he would have found the complaint to be very common on this side of the Atlantic. In a word, the cholera of India, the Milbank disease, and the sinking fever of our country, appear now to be only varieties of the same malady, modified by accidental circumstances: a deathlike gastric sinking being common to them all.

THOMAS MINER.

Middletown, Conn. Oct. 6, 1826.

DANCING.

We hear a great deal of indiscriminate commendation in favor of this amusement, as equally conducive to

health and social enjoyment; but like this sort of commendation in other cases, it is here often fallacious, and leads to injurious consequences. Whether any truth shall be found in this eulogy or not, depends altogether on circumstances. It may certainly be made pleasant and salutary, or quite the reverse. In the first place, to be beneficial, it must not be taken soon after eating; it is too laborious and active an exercise to be well borne till the preceding meal is nearly digested. It is also frequently continued too long, and till too late an hour at night, to be safe or conducive to health.

The ancients who seem, in many respects, to have understood the art of living better than we do, connected the gratification of the senses with corporeal vigor, and never transgressed the laws of health in their social recreations or gymnastic exercises. They generally danced in large halls, or spacious public places. We frequently dance in small, crowded apartments, where the dust and cutaneous exhalations are taken into the lungs, and thus cooperate with any slight cause, as sitting still in a cold place, &c., to bring on catarrh, which leads to consumption.

From too violent and long continued exertion in these places, the body becomes more or less heated, then fatigued and exhausted. In this state of the system, young people often return home, in cold weather, but half protected from a chilling atmosphere. Several instances have occurred to our observation, where persons have retired from the ballroom, late at night, but thinly clothed, and have got home with cold feet, and chilled through. Nothing can be more hazardous than to go to bed in this state. Every practitioner of medicine must have seen violent pleurisy, fever, internal inflammation, &c. which have originated from this exposure. In the colder parts of the year, the apartment where the dancing takes place should

not be heated above 55 or 60 degrees, and contiguous to this room, another should be gratefully warmed, into which all those should withdraw who have been dancing, where they might gradually cool themselves down to the temperature of health, but not below it.

Exercise of any kind, to be safe or beneficial, must be adapted to the strength and habits of him who takes it. Whenever it is taken in such degree, or under such circumstances as to leave one cold and weak, it is irksome to the feelings in the first instance, and always likely to occasion sickness of some sort, in the second. Nothing is worse at any time than to enter one's bed, shivering and shaking with cold, without the means of getting warm. Rather than do this, it is better to raise the house, build a fire, drink a cup of hot chocolate, take a warm bath, or anything else more convenient and effectual, till the system is sufficiently warm, and the animal heat thoroughly established. A little prudence, however, foresight and arrangement, would be quite sufficient to prevent this state of the animal system, so dreary to ourselves, and so provokingly troublesome to others.

Some indisposition, from these causes, not severe at first, is not unfrequently concealed by the sufferer, lest the disclosure might interrupt her favorite amusement. This generally makes every thing worse, and has the opposite effect from the one intended.

EARLY PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

We copy the following article, by permission, from the Journal of Education, not knowing how better to begin to fulfil one of our intentions.

I am one of those among your subscribers who have always been pleased with the importance which you ascribe to female influence and agency in the business of education—and I should be happy to contribute

something to the mother's success in her department. This I am most disposed to attempt in the way of physical education; in this view, I will with her leave take my stand by the side of her infant, from his first respiration, in order to defend him from the bustling interference of officious selfsufficiency, from ignorance and fashion, and from the ill directed measures of groundless solicitude. And if you can believe that tender object of our care is ordinarily surrounded by all these 'friends and enemies,' you will readily feel that he needs at least one protector to shield him from their combined operations.

The first wants of the infant may be divided into those of cleanliness, clothing, and food; and, for this time, I shall limit my remarks chiefly to these three topics. One not skilled in the theory and practice of nurses, and women of years and *experience*, would not suppose that there was, in the nature of things, any great mystery or difficulty in washing an infant; and yet they on whom this simple operation commonly devolves, contrive to do it badly.

Milkwarm, soft water, *mild* soap, and a piece of flannel, are all the preparation that is necessary.

Soft flannel more readily absorbs and removes the caseous matter with which the skin is covered than linen or cotton.

This washing should be steadily and perseveringly, not violently, continued till the skin is perfectly clean, smooth, and comfortable. Instead of this natural, easy, and grateful process, the nurse or some experienced matron present, full of the magnitude of her assumed office, and her allsufficiency to perform it according to custom and art, calls for some lard or other animal oil to besmear the body, which is then to be removed by acrid soap and water, after which the irritated skin of the 'tender plant,' is to be further chafed and inflamed by a free application of

rum, brandy, or some other spirit ;— whichever can be first found in the hurry and confusion with which the whole matter is despatched.

We thus see how early it is necessary to oppose the errors and intrusions of ignorance, presumption, and habit, by the aid of reason, common sense, and humanity, in any attempts to secure the physical wellbeing of our race.

Important and desirable as it is, that children, in our northern climate, should be rendered hardy and familiar with cold air and cold water, it should never be forgotten, that this firmness and security can only be obtained by slow and cautious advances. Few customs are so unnatural or injurious as that of washing newborn infants in cold water. The washing and dressing of infants, with the necessary exposure to the air, constitute a sufficient commencement of the *seasoning* regimen for the first three months, during which the water should not be suffered to communicate any sensation of cold. The only exception to this rule is, where the child is oppressed with atmospheric heat, in which case the water should be *pleasantly* cool only.

From this period, if the infant be well, and the weather cool, the temperature of the water may be gradually lowered : so that at the end of six months, if this be in summer, cold water may be used ; that is to say, water not artificially heated.

What would the neverdoubting nurse think, if the harsh expedient were prescribed for herself, which, with equal want of judgment and feeling, she practises on her helpless charge ?

In furnishing the infant's wardrobe, we should have reference to economy, convenience, health, and good taste ; these are the objects to be attained. Anything like ornament, unless it be something very simple and appropriate, or undue expense, is equally opposed to economy and good taste. The infant himself is

the jewel ; and the casket should never be permitted to usurp the mother's or spectator's attention.

To be convenient, the dress should be so made as to be put on and taken off in as little time, and with as little labor as possible. To promote health, the dress should be suited to the various seasons of the year ; never so warm as to be oppressive in summer, nor so light in winter as not to protect the child from the irksome sensation of cold, and the risk of disease. Soft, thin flannel should be the prevailing material for three fourths of our year.

Noncombustible substances should alone be used during that portion of the year in which fires are kindled. This single precaution would be the means of preventing a number of painful deaths. Needles, when used for fastening the dress, are worse than pins ; and pins should be as little used as possible.

At no period of life should any part of our clothing be permitted, in the smallest degree, to impede the freedom of muscular motion, nor by compression, to interfere with an easy and healthful performance of all the essential functions of life ; such as circulation, breathing, digestion, &c.

Every day this rule is violated, and every day suffering or death is the consequence. Can any young lady think to entertain her friends by attempting to sing or read to them, when her chest is so compressed that she cannot by any effort distend her lungs with air ?

The resources of art are best applied when they are made to counteract the inequalities of nature. And with regard to temperature, that dress is the most perfect which adds least to the oppressive heat of summer, and protects the body most effectually from the cold of winter.

One remark, in regard to clothing, as it respects temperature, is important ; for persons in health the best temperature is that middle state,

which is exactly midway between the sensation of heat or cold. Either deviation from this medium is equally unpleasant, or injurious, and equally to be avoided.

From a disregard of this fact, many children and adults are incommoded or injured by too much heat. This renders the body tender, and more readily subjects it to disease from the common effects of exposure to the atmosphere. Infants require so much watching and fidelity to secure their wellbeing, that parents may well dispense with any labor or expense which does not contribute to this end. Such works of supererogation, we think, are all dresses for the head; they are certainly useless, and in the opinion of those who are best qualified to decide in this matter, they are worse than useless, for they make the head tender, subject it to catarrh, promote undue heat, eruptions, &c.

We are desirous of recording in these pages a history of the introduction and progress of Gymnastics in New England, and shall be grateful to any gentleman in Northampton, Cambridge, Amherst, New Bedford, and wherever else the system has been begun, for an account of the same. We hope a gentleman in this city will favor us with a relation of his commencement last year, and particularly so as his commencement was with misses.

PROPRIETOR'S NOTICE.—Our exchange list having increased to an unwieldy extent, we wish to say, that if any proprietor of a paper, for which the Medical Intelligencer has been sent in exchange, should not in future receive it, he is desired to suppose that we consider the arrangement unprofitable. We certainly wish others to take this liberty with us, for the exchange should be entirely free and voluntary in order to make it satisfactory.

A Mr Porter has lately married a Miss Drinkwater; it has been conjectured, on chemical principles, that the product of this union must be something like *smallbeer*.

The Dictionary and several other articles prepared for this number, for want of room must be deferred till our next.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ATHENEUM:
OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.
FOR OCTOBER 15,

JUST published by John Cotton, 184 Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St.

CONTENTS.—Gymnastics—The Emblem Rose—A Wedding in Court—The Mourner for the Barmecides—The Poet's Home—Phrenological Illustrations—Autobiography of Mansie Wauch, Tailor—Domestic Manners and Customs of the Fourteenth Century—A Thief detected with the stolen Goods—Leaves from a Journal—Perplexities of Portrait Painters Hoppner—Skill in Archery—Children—Match-Making—Montesquieu and the Pope—A School-boy Bishop—Imitative Gold—Printing upon Zinc—New Publications.

JEFFERSON COLLEGE.
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT IN PHILADELPHIA.

THE Board of Additional Trustees, appointed according to the Act of Assembly of this Commonwealth, to superintend the Medical School in Philadelphia, announce that the several Courses of Medical Lectures will be commenced on the second day of November next.

The Trustees are assured that the means of Instruction and Illustration, the conveniences of the Building in the use of the Faculty, and the opportunities of witnessing Clinical and Surgical Practice, and Practical Anatomy, will not be inferior to those enjoyed by students at any other Medical Institution.

According to the provisions of the Act of Assembly, no Matriculation Fee is demandable, and no Professor is entitled to charge more than 15 Dollars for admission to his Lectures.

No degree of Doctor of Medicine can be conferred, unless the candidate shall have actually studied Medicine for the term of three years, under the direction of a reputable practitioner; shall be of full age, and shall have attended at least two full Courses of Lectures at this Institution, or one at this, and one at another respectable College.

JAMES M. BROOM,
President pro tempore of the Board of
Additional Trustees.
E. INGERSOLL, Sec'y.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF NEW YORK.

City of New York, 1st August, 1826.
THE late Professors of the College of Physicians and Surgeons having seen fit to withdraw from the Institution without thereby intending to relinquish their

accustomed functions, have organized another Medical College in which all but two of the former faculty take part, and the remaining vacancies are filled by gentlemen of distinguished fame and acknowledged ability.

All the means of instruction to be derived from an extensive cabinet of Anatomical and Surgical preparations, and a full supply of subjects for dissection; from valuable collections of Natural History, Botany, Mineralogy, and Chemical Apparatus, will be amply afforded in this College to the votaries of Medicine and Surgery.

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JOHN D. GODMAN, M. D., *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*

The Professor of Chemistry will be announced within the ensuing month.

The several Courses of Instruction will commence on the first Monday in November ensuing. Arrangements are made for conferring the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the usual manner. The reciprocity of an *ad eundem* standing is also established between this College and the University of Pennsylvania. The former pupils of the Professors will be admitted as heretofore, and the Medical officers of the United States' Army and Navy are invited on the same footing as graduates.

Published by Order,

DAVID HOSACK, M. D., *President.*

PETER S. TOWNSEND, M. D. *Regist.*

* * David L. Rogers, M. D. will give Lectures and Demonstrations in Operative Surgery under the Professor.

**UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF
NEW-YORK,**

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

THE Trustees have the satisfaction to announce that the Honorable the

Regents of the University have filled the vacant Professorships in this Institution, and that the College will be opened on the first Monday of November next, by an Address from the President. The respective courses of Lectures in the following order, viz.

JOHN AUGUSTINE SMITH, M. D. *on Anatomy and Physiology.*

ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D. *on the Principles and Practice of Surgery.*

JAMES F. DANA, M. D. *on Chemistry.*

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D. *on the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.*

EDWARD DELAFIELD, M. D. *on Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.*

JOHN B. BECK, M. D. *on Materia Medica and Botany.*

The Trustees are assured that the several courses of instruction will be full and complete, and that the means of illustration will be ample.

The students who have already attended Lectures in this Institution, are notified that the changes which have taken place in the College will not deprive them of any privileges or facilities heretofore enjoyed.

In conformity with the ordinances of the Honorable the Regents, of the University, and the Laws of the State of New-York, every Student is required to attend two full courses of all the Lectures delivered in the College, before he can be admitted as a candidate for the Doctorate; unless said Student shall have attended Lectures in this College prior to the Session of 1822-3, or shall have attended one entire course of Lectures delivered in some incorporated Medical School or University.

The candidate must also have studied three years with some respectable practitioner of Medicine, and have arrived at the age of 21 years.

In announcing the new organization of the College and its first session in November next, the Board of Trustees believe that the high expectations of the Profession and the Public will be fully realized, and sustained by the distinguished reputation and talents of the several Gentlemen who have been appointed to fill the respective professorships.

By order of the Board of Trustees,

JOHN WATTS, Jr. M. D., *Pres.*
NICOLL H. DERING, M. D., *Regist.*

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St., to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid).—Price two dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, two dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1826.

NO. 23.

OF DRINKS.

Continued from page 186.

The next question to be considered is, as to the most suitable period for taking liquids: and this is, in some measure, answered by the preceding observations. By drinking *before* a meal, we place the stomach in a very unfit condition for the duties it has to perform. By drinking *during* a meal, we shall assist digestion, if the solid matter be of a nature to require it; and impede it, if the quantity taken renders the mass too liquid. Those physicians, therefore, who have insisted on the necessity of a total abstinence of liquid during a meal, appear to have forgotten that every general rule must be regulated by circumstances. The best test of its necessity is afforded by the sensations of the individual, which ought not to be disregarded merely because they appear in opposition to some preconceived theory. The valetudinarian who, without the feeling of thirst, drinks during a meal because he has heard that it assists digestion; and he who abstains from liquid, in opposition to this feeling, in consequence of the clamor which the partisans of a popular lecturer have raised against the custom, will equally err, and contribute to the increase of the evil they so anxiously seek to obviate. Dr W. Philip has stated a fact, the truth of which my own experience justifies, that "eating too fast causes thirst; for the food being swallowed without a due admixture of saliva, the mass formed in the stomach is too dry." I may conclude these remarks by observing, that as hunger and thirst are, to a certain

extent, incompatible sensations, it is probable that nature intended that the appetite for food should first be satisfied, before a supply of drink becomes necessary; and if our food possesses that degree of succulence which characterizes digestible aliment, there will be no occasion for it. But, under any circumstances, the quantity taken should be small: it is during the intervals of our solid meals that the liquid necessary for the repair of our fluids should be taken; and both theory and experience appear in this respect to conform, and to demonstrate the advantage which attends a liquid repast about four or five hours after the solid meal. At about this period the chyle has entered its proper vessels, and is flowing into the blood, in order to undergo its final changes. Then it is that the stomach, having disposed of its charge, receives the wholesome draught with the greatest advantage; then it is that the blood, impregnated with new materials, requires the assistance of a diluent to complete their sanguification, and to carry off the superfluous matter; and it is then that the kidneys and the skin will require the aid of additional water to assist the performance of their functions. The common beverage of tea, or some analogous repast, originally suggested no doubt by an instinctive desire for liquid at this period, is thus sanctioned by theory, while its advantages are established by experience.

WATER is unquestionably the natural beverage of man; but any objection against the use of other beverages, founded on their artificial ori-

gin, I should at once repel by the same argument which has been adduced in defence of cookery. We are to consider man as he is, not as he might have been, had he never forsaken the rude path of nature. I am willing to confess, that "the more simply life is supported, and the less stimulus we use, the better; and that he is happy who considers water the best drink, and salt the best sauce :" but how rarely does a physician find a patient who has regulated his life by such a maxim ! He is generally called on to reform stomachs, already vitiated by bad habits, and which cannot, without much discipline, be reconciled to simple and healthy aliment. Under such circumstances, nothing can be more injudicious, than abruptly to withdraw the accustomed stimuli, unless it can be shown that they are absolutely injurious; a question it will be my duty to investigate hereafter.

The qualities of water differ essentially, according to the source from which it has been obtained ; and those accustomed to this beverage are sensible to differences which wholly escape the observation of less experienced judges. How far the existence of foreign matter injures its salubrity, has been a subject of much controversy : the truth, perhaps, lies between the extremes ; those who insist on the necessity of distillation for its purification, and those who consider every description of water as alike salubrious, are, in my opinion, equally remote from truth. That the presence of minute quantities of earthy matter can become a source of disease, appears absurd ; while it would be highly dangerous to deny the morbid tendency of water that holds putrescent animal or vegetable matter in solution, or which abounds in mineral impregnation.

1. RAIN WATER, when collected in the open fields, is certainly the purest natural water, being produced as it were by a natural distillation. When, however, it is collected near

large towns, it derives some impregnation from the smoky and contaminated atmosphere through which it falls ; and, if allowed to come in contact with the houses, will be found to contain calcareous matter ; in which case it ought never to be used without being previously boiled and strained. Hippocrates gave this advice ; and M. Margraf, of Berlin, has shown the wisdom of the precaution by a satisfactory series of experiments

2. SPRING WATER, in addition to the substances detected in rain water, generally contains a small portion of muriate of soda, and frequently other salts : but the larger springs are purer than the smaller ones ; and those which occur in primitive countries, and in siliceous rocks, or beds of gravel, necessarily contain the least impregnation. An important practical distinction has been founded on the fact, that the water of some springs dissolves soap, while that of others decomposes and curdles it : the former has been termed *soft*, the latter *hard*, water. Soft water is a more powerful solvent of all vegetable matters, and is consequently to be preferred for domestic as well as medicinal purposes. The brewer knows well from experience, how much more readily and copiously soft water will dissolve the extractive matter of his malt ; and the housewife does not require to be told, that hard water is incapable of making good tea. Sulphate of lime is the salt which generally imparts the quality of hardness to water ; and it has been said that its presence will sometimes occasion an uneasy sensation of weight in a weak stomach. The quantity of this salt varies considerably ; but, in general, it appears that the proportion of five grains in a pint of water, will constitute hardness, unfit for washing with soap, and for many other purposes of domestic use. Animals appear to be more sensible of the impurities of water than man. Horses, by an instinctive sagacity, always prefer soft water ; and when, by necessity or inatten-

tion, they are confined to the use of that which is *hard*, their coats become rough and illconditioned, and they are frequently attacked with the gripes. Pigeons are also known to refuse hard, after they have been accustomed to soft water.*

3. RIVER WATER. This, being derived from the conflux of numerous springs with rain water, generally possesses considerable purity; that the proportion of its saline contents should be small, is easily explained by the precipitation which must necessarily take place from the union of different solutions: it is, however, liable to hold in suspension particles of earthy matter, which impair its transparency, and sometimes its salubrity. This is particularly the case with the Seine, the Ganges, and the Nile: but as the impurities, are, for the most part, only suspended, and not truly dissolved, mere rest or filtration will therefore restore to it its original purity. The chemist, therefore, after such a process, would be unable to distinguish water taken up at London from that procured at Hampton court. There exists a popular belief, that the water of the Thames is peculiarly adapted for the brewery of porter; it is only necessary to observe, that such water is never used in the London breweries. The vapid taste of river, when compared with spring water, depends on the loss of air and carbonic acid, from its long exposure.

4. WELL WATER is essentially the same as spring water, being derived from the same source; it is, however, more liable to impurity from its stagnation or slow infiltration :†

* Hard water has certainly a tendency to produce disease in the spleen of certain animals, especially in sheep. This is the case on the eastern side of the island of Minorca, as we are informed by Cleghorn.

† Dr Percival observes, that bricks harden the softest water, and give it an aluminous impregnation: the common practice of lining wells with them is therefore very improper, unless they be covered with cement.

hence our old wells furnish much purer water than those which are more recent, as the soluble particles are gradually washed away. Mr Dalton observes, that the more any spring is drawn from, the softer the water will become.

5. SNOW WATER has been supposed to be unwholesome, and in particular to produce bronchocele, from the prevalence of this disease in the Alps: but it does not appear on what principle its insalubrity can depend. The same strumous affection occurs at Sumatra, where ice and snow are never seen; while, on the contrary, the disease is quite unknown in Chili and Thibet, though the rivers of these countries are supplied by the melting of the snow with which the mountains are covered. The same observations will apply to *ice water*. The trials of Captain Cook, in his voyage round the world, prove its wholesomeness beyond a doubt; in the high southern latitudes he found a salutary supply of fresh water in the ice of the sea. "This melted ice," says Sir John Pringle, "was not only sweet but soft, and so wholesome as to show the fallacy of human reasoning, unsupported by experiments." When immediately melted, snow water contains no air, as it is expelled during the act of freezing, consequently it is remarkably vapid; but it soon recovers the air it had lost, by exposure to the atmosphere.

(To be continued.)

BOSTON, TUESDAY, OCT. 24, 1826.

Dr LIEBER, now in London, an able teacher of Gymnastics, is willing to come to America to conduct a gymnasium, if his passage is paid, and he can receive 800 dollars' salary, for the first year. If 1000 dollars are offered, Dr Lieber will bring with him Mr A. BAUR, a student in theology, as an assistant, which would be very advantageous to the pupils, as Mr Baur presided, for several years, over the

gymnasium in Tubengen, and was under JAHN in the central institution of Berlin. Dr LIEBER speaks English well, and teaches also swimming and fencing.

We have seen full and satisfactory certificates of the scientific and moral qualifications of these gentlemen.—EDITOR.

THE ANIMAL MECHANISM AND ECONOMY.
To the Ed. of the Med. Intelligencer.

MY DEAR SIR,—In compliance with your request, I will endeavor to furnish you with a brief account of my humble attempts to introduce Gymnastic Exercises into the Monitorial School; and perhaps not the least gratifying circumstance in my relation will be the fact, that my attempt takes date from the delivery of one of your Lectures on Physical Education, early in the spring of 1825. I had long before noticed the feeble health of many of my pupils, and encouraged them to take more exercise, but they wanted means and example, and little or nothing was effected. The very day after the delivery of your first lecture, I procured two or three bars, and as many pulleys, and after I had explained the manner of using them to the best advantage, my pupils needed no further encouragement to action. The recess was no longer a stupid, inactive season; all were busy and animated. My chief difficulty was in the selection of proper exercises for females. You know the prevailing notions of female delicacy and propriety are at variance with every attempt to render females less feeble and helpless,—and the bugbears of rudeness, romping, &c. are sure to stare every such attempt in the face. I read all the books I could find, but met with very little applicable to the instruction of females. It seemed as if the sex had been thought unworthy of any effort to improve their physical powers. But the beneficial effects of what I had already introduced, led me to persevere, and I have finally succeeded in contriving apparatus and exercises enough to

keep all employed in play hours. Besides the ordinary exercises of raising the arms and feet, and extending them in various directions, we have various methods of hanging and swinging by the arms, tilting, raising weights, jumping forward, marching, running, *enduring*, &c. &c. I have no longer any anxiety about procuring suitable exercises, or in sufficient variety, for my pupils; and I believe the few parents whose more prim education led them to shudder at my innovation, have surrendered their prejudices.

As to the effect of the exercises on the character and conduct of the pupils, it may be recorded for the encouragement of others, that many weak and feeble children have at least doubled their strength, and now disdain the little indulgences which were then thought necessary to them. Some very dull children have become more animated, and some over sprightly ones have found an innocent way of letting off their exuberant spirits; the discipline of the school has not been impaired, nor has my participation in the exercises of the children lessened their respect for me or my orders. I do not pretend that every dull child has been completely excited, nor that every wild one has been tamed, nor every vicious one reformed, but I do believe that no child has been made worse than she would have become without the exercises, while many, very many, have been essentially benefited. I would not conceal the fact that many hands have been blistered, and perhaps a little hardened by the exercises, but I have yet to learn that the perfection of female beauty consists in a soft, small, and almost useless hand, any more than in the cramped, diminutive, deformed, and useless feet of the Chinese ladies. But some of the old school say, why not let the children walk much, and exercise themselves in useful household labors. I should recommend both these methods of exercise, but

do not think they would be a complete substitute for gymnastics, though a very useful aid to them. But the fact is, the children of the present day are not thus employed at home, but on the contrary are engaged in the healthdestroying business of committing books to memory, and filling the mind with indigestible food, that it may be a suitable companion for its dyspeptic envelope. I hope the day is not far distant when gymnasiums for women will be as common as churches in Boston, and when our young men, in selecting the mothers of their future offspring, will make it one condition of the covenant that they be healthy, strong, capable of enduring fatigue, encountering danger, and helping themselves, and those who will naturally, and of right, look to them for assistance. Very respectfully,

Your friend and servant,

WILLIAM B. FOWLE.

Boston, October, 1826.

We are so well pleased with this letter that we hasten to lay it before our readers without abridgment or alteration; and are disposed to rejoice a little on the occasion, even at the risk of being called vain. We value it mainly, in the first place, because it is the first account we have seen of gymnastics having been successfully practised in any school for girls, in any part of the United States: and secondly, because it is the first direct evidence we have had that the feeble, though persevering efforts, we have from time to time made, to bring into notice and favor the long missing, though fundamental branch of education, have produced any good effect. We trust the period is not now very remote when we shall be able to speak of gymnastic training, both male and female, as a matter of experience, instead of being altogether dependent on foreign testimony for all we are to believe, know and feel on the subject. It will be grateful to appeal to our own senses, muscles and nerves, in place of relying on more distant and less trustworthy witnesses.

There is nothing new to us in the contents of this letter, though there may be to others; for we have often seen the teacher's ingenuity in devising, putting up and using the apparatus in his miniature gymnasium; and have been permitted to share in the exercises of the place, till the little happy pupils were quite willing to admit us to be of their number.

In relation to these exercises as applicable to females, there are some questions which deserve consideration. Can they be rendered appropriate, becoming, and useful? That a sufficient number of these exercises can be selected and adapted to the character, station, and wants of girls and women, is the unanimous opinion of those individuals on the Continent, in England, and in America, who are best acquainted with the subject; and in all these countries trials are now going on which will, in due time, make this opinion the common conviction of every inquiring and enlightened mind.

Women in general, from their relations and duties, need the preserving and invigorating movements of the gymnasium, more than men, and when they shall have realized their vivifying effects, will be as much attached to them. In reference to this subject, the question is frequently asked, "are not walking, riding, and an attention to domestic concerns and duties, quite as good for health, and more useful and suitable for women, than the queer motions and gesticulations of the gymnasium?" To answer briefly, we say no, they are not! Who is right? Let *facts* decide; and to ascertain where the facts, in the case, are to be found, let this quere be first disposed of. What has been done for the last half century in the American Union, to render our women what *they are capable of being made*, healthy, efficient, and happy beings? We mean happy, so far as the physical state and condition of every daughter and son of Eve, is an essential ingredient of happiness. Let every mother and daughter, as well as father and son, who feels an interest in this question, and who is capable of making an observation, go

abroad into society, if they have strength enough to leave home, and decide the point for themselves. But why should we need an elaborate argument, with all the aids and adjuncts of analogy, example, and illustration, to prove what the history of every populous place, and almost every family, will show to be true?

Six years ago, Colonel AMOROS, on opening his course of physical, gymnastic and moral instruction, in Paris, said in a discourse pronounced at the time, that "Gymnastics have not yet been well defined, because they have not yet been examined from the true point of view. I will endeavor to explain what I mean, by giving a definition of the word. Gymnastics is the science of our movements, with their relations to our senses, intelligence, sentiments and manners,—and the unfolding of our faculties. This art embraces the practice of all those exercises which tend to make us more courageous, intrepid, strong, industrious, adroit, swift, and supple,—and which dispose us to render signal services to the State and to humanity. Beneficence and utility are the leading objects of this science; the practice of all the social virtues, of all the most difficult and generous sacrifices,—its means. Health, the prolongation of life, an improvement of the human species; an augmentation of public and private force and riches,—are its positive results. If this definition is exact and complete, then we have established a sure basis for the route we should pursue, and have traced the circle of our operations. It is thus at least that I have viewed gymnastics since the first day that I introduced them into Spain, and it is thus that I have established them in France, and that I present to your notice all the elements that are before you. If gymnastics is the analytical science of our motions, it is important that we should know how to make them, and be made acquainted with the admirable springs with which nature has endowed us, and the advantages we are capable of deriving from our wonderful faculties.

"Would you run like the 'deer,' climb like the ape, wrestle like the bear, in fine perform all your operations like the animals, without being able to give any account of them? The gift of speech, the power of thought, the supremacy of talents,—have they all been given to us to be neglected and forgotten? Proud of studying the dead and living languages, of knowing events which took place three thousand or three millions of miles from us, or which occurred six thousand years ago,—we willingly remain ignorant of what is constantly passing within, and of what touches us without, on every side; and a system of this sort is called *education*; and possessing this, it is thought we possess the summit of human attainments. What arrogance! Explain to me then how you press the hand of a beloved child, or of a tender parent who has given and preserved your life. Does not the mode of this simple but expressive contraction deserve to be understood? No, we are condemned by our perverse education to be ignorant of the cause of this effort. We hardly perceive the feebleness of our instruction, or the want of faculties which have never been brought into action.

"I have attempted to fill this immense chasm,—to impart to my pupils some useful lessons in physiology, and to draw the greatest possible advantages from the happy dispositions of the French youth; to superintend the formation of their character and habits, inseparable from the education of the physical powers;—and to improve the precious hours which are too often wasted, or misspent."

M. Amoros thus closes his address:—"Mothers, observe what *Montaigne*, *Rousseau* and the king advise you:—'Make your children strong, active, industrious, intelligent, selfpossessed, and you will thus do more for them, than if you were to amass for their use all the perishable wealth of *Cresus*.' Man has no other value than his own power, his acquired talents. In an instant he may cease to be a proprietor, he may no longer be a duke or a prince. He may be

stripped of everything, and left naked as he came into existence,—then wretched will he be who has not learned to live without these ephemeral and extraneous appendages. A certain king having lost his kingdom, knew how to place himself at the head of a school. He was of more worth in his new profession, than in the station he had lost, for he had been a tyrant, and his history afforded more than one lesson of instruction. Let us all study, labor, and profit by every passing moment, even from the portions allotted to recreation. Let us understand by *repose*, a change of occupation. Let us devote no more time to sleep than is necessary to health. An endless sleep gains but too fast upon us, in order to surprise us for permitting him to steal from us so many hours which we might have used for our own improvement."

We cannot now speak of the new aids and means,—apparatus, engravings, statues, music, &c., which Col. Amoros has invented or improved for the accomplishment of his purposes. At some future time we hope to publish the opinion of several persons in Paris, of this school. Among those who commend it are many names of the civil and military officers of France,—of teachers, savans, philanthropists, &c.

MEDICAL SCHOOL IN BOSTON.
THE LECTURES at the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL COLLEGE, in Boston, will commence on the third Wednesday in November.

Anat. and Surg. by DR WARREN.
Chemistry, by DR GORHAM.

Midwifery and Med. Jurisprud. by DR CHANNING.

Materia Medica, by DR BIGELOW.
Theory and Practice of Physic, by DR JACKSON.

The advantages for attending Hospital practice at this Institution, are considered equal to those afforded in any city of the United States.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.
THE Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College, will commence on Tuesday, the 20th day of February, 1827.

Theory and Practice of Physic by DANIEL OLIVER, M. D. Professor of the same department at Hanover, N. H.

Anatomy and Surgery by J. D. WELLS, M. D.

Midwifery by J. M'KEAN, M. D.
Chemistry and Materia Medica by P. CLEAVELAND, M. D.

The *Anatomical Cabinet* is very valuable and extensive.

The *Library* is one of the best Medical Libraries in New England; and is every year enriched by new works, both foreign and domestic.

Every person becoming a member of this Institution, is required to present satisfactory evidence, that he possesses a good moral character.

Citizens of Maine in indigent circumstances may have *surgical operations* performed, free of expense, if brought into the vicinity of the College during the Course.—As a reduction in the price of boarding is an object of importance to many, arrangements have been made, which, it is hoped, may effect this object to a considerable extent.

Brunswick, September 26, 1826.

JEFFERSON COLLEGE.

MED. DEPARTMENT IN PHILADELPHIA.

THE Board of Additional Trustees, appointed according to the Act of Assembly of this Commonwealth, to superintend the Medical School in Philadelphia, announce that the several Courses of Medical Lectures will be commenced on the second day of November next.

The Trustees are assured that the means of Instruction and Illustration, the conveniences of the Building in the use of the Faculty, and the opportunities of witnessing Clinical and Surgical Practice, and Practical Anatomy, will not be inferior to those enjoyed by students at any other Medical Institution.

According to the provisions of the Act of Assembly, no Matriculation Fee is demandable, and no Professor is entitled to charge more than 15 Dollars for admission to his Lectures.

No degree of Doctor of Medicine can be conferred, unless the candidate shall have actually studied Medicine for the term of three years, under the direction of a reputable practitioner; shall be of full age, and shall have attended at least two full Courses of Lectures at this Institution, or one at this, and one at another respectable College.

JAMES M. BROOM,
President pro tempore of the Board of
Additional Trustees.

E. INGERSOLL, Sec'y.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF NEW YORK.

City of New York, 1st August, 1826.
THE late Professors of the College of Physicians and Surgeons having seen fit to withdraw from the Institution without thereby intending to relinquish their

accustomed functions, have organized another Medical College in which all but two of the former faculty take part, and the remaining vacancies are filled by gentlemen of distinguished fame and acknowledged ability.

All the means of instruction to be derived from an extensive cabinet of Anatomical and Surgical preparations, and a full supply of subjects for dissection; from valuable collections of Natural History, Botany, Mineralogy, and Chemical Apparatus, will be amply afforded in this College to the votaries of Medicine and Surgery.

OFFICERS OF THE COLLEGE.

DAVID HOSACK, M. D. F.R.S., *President.*

SAMUEL L. MITCHILL, M. D. L. L. D. *Vice-President.*

PETER S. TOWNSEND, M.D., *Registrar.*
PROFESSORS.

DAVID HOSACK, M. D., *Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.*

WILLIAM JAMES MACNEVEN, M. D., *Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica.*

VALENTINE MOTT, M. D., *Professor of Surgery.*

JOHN W. FRANCIS, M. D., *Professor of Obstetrics and Forensic Medicine.*

JOHN D. GODMAN, M. D., *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*

The Professor of Chemistry will be announced within the ensuing month.

The several Courses of Instruction will commence on the first Monday in November ensuing. Arrangements are made for conferring the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the usual manner. The reciprocity of an *ad eundem* standing is also established between this College and the University of Pennsylvania. The former pupils of the Professors will be admitted as heretofore, and the Medical officers of the United States' Army and Navy are invited on the same footing as graduates.

Published by Order,

DAVID HOSACK, M. D., *President.*

PETER S. TOWNSEND, M. D. *Regist.*

* * David L. Rogers, M. D. will give Lectures and Demonstrations in Operative Surgery under the Professor.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

THE Trustees have the satisfaction to announce that the Honorable the

Regents of the University have filled the vacant Professorships in this Institution, and that the College will be opened on the first Monday of November next, by an Address from the President. The respective courses of Lectures in the following order, viz.

JOHN AUGUSTINE SMITH, M. D. *on Anatomy and Physiology.*

ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D. *on the Principles and Practice of Surgery.*

JAMES F. DANA, M. D. *on Chemistry.*

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D. *on the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.*

EDWARD DELAFIELD, M. D. *on Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.*

JOHN B. BECK, M. D. *on Materia Medica and Botany.*

The Trustees are assured that the several courses of instruction will be full and complete, and that the means of illustration will be ample.

The students who have already attended Lectures in this Institution, are notified that the changes which have taken place in the College will not deprive them of any privileges or facilities heretofore enjoyed.

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The candidate must also have studied three years with some respectable practitioner of Medicine, and have arrived at the age of 21 years.

In announcing the new organization of the College and its first session in November next, the Board of Trustees believe that the high expectations of the Profession and the Public will be fully realized, and sustained by the distinguished reputation and talents of the several Gentlemen who have been appointed to fill the respective professorships.

By order of the Board of Trustees,

JOHN WATTS, Jr. M. D., *Pres.*
NICOLL H. DERING, M. D., *Regist.*

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St., to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid).—Price two dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, two dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

BOSTON

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1826.

NO. 24.

HEALTH OF OUR CITIES.

The season, generally speaking, has been unusually healthy throughout the United States. Cases of malignant fever, it is true, have appeared at Mobile, Norfolk, and a few other places, but they subsided immediately. The New York Board of Health, with praiseworthy alacrity, have announced the existence of some deaths of *yellow fever*, at or near the Quarantine Establishment, on Staten Island, seven miles from the city.—The infection was evidently of foreign origin, and prompt and successful measures were adopted to prevent its extension.

Smallpox.—We hear of the existence of *smallpox* in various parts of the Union. Will it not hereafter be recorded to the *disgrace* of some of the existing authorities of this boasted, enlightened and provident age, that after the blessing of Vaccination had been discovered, and its sovereign efficacy as a preventive of Smallpox fully established, that they, by their gross negligence should have suffered the existence and prevalence of a most deadly and loathsome plague? It is known, however, that there are honorable exceptions to the pertinency of the above query; but it is to be regretted that there are not more. It will not, we trust, be considered adulterary, if we mention, that there have been two general *Vaccinations* in Boston—the last about two years since.—The first made by direction of the old Board of Health, and the latter by the City Council; and both at a very trifling expense, compared with the benefits which have resulted from

our almost entire exemption from any case of a disease, which, within the memory of many now living, has suspended, at times, the entire business of the town for weeks, and once occasioned the sittings of the Legislature to be removed to Concord. Summary laws for even the promotion of a blessing, are inconsistent with the genius of our Constitutions, and the negligence of parents in having their children vaccinated, has appeared to be without remedy, unless by coercion. A general Vaccination, therefore, appears to be the only remedy, and it ought to be repeated about every seventh year. We cannot in justice omit to add, that the honor of having taken the lead in a general vaccination in our country, belongs to the town of Milton.

Columbian Centinel of Oct. 11.

No one can read the first part of this account without a grateful emotion which all should cherish, and on proper occasions acknowledge and express. But we have copied the article in order to notice what is said of the two general vaccinations of this city. The writer seems to think the friends of this measure to be entitled to much credit for bringing it about, and for the good influence it has had in securing the city against smallpox.

With regard to our last vaccination, we are compelled to differ entirely from the opinion of the Centinel editor. The method of proceeding three years ago, was badly devised, miserably executed, and produced much more evil than good. After much unpleasant discussion in the city government, it was finally concluded to offer the cowpock gratuitously to every person in Boston who had not been pre-

viously variolated or vaccinated, and such medical agents were engaged to perform this service as were willing to undertake it for an unknown, trifling, pecuniary compensation. The business of course, for the most part, fell into the hands of the younger, the least employed, and the most inexperienced part of the profession. Most of the rich, and those in competent circumstances, chose to employ their own physician, and to pay him for his services, as they were in the habit of doing, and therefore were not pleased to have a stranger enter their dwelling and almost insist, as was sometimes done, on vaccinating the family whether desired to do so or not. Some few again were pleased with the idea of cheapness, or gratuity, and were less solicitous about the ability or fidelity with which the services might be performed, than about the saving of expense. Many of the poor received rather coldly the proffered favor, from men they did not know, and whom they could have no cause to prefer. For these reasons, the undertakers soon found their task to be a disagreeable one, for they were not sustained by any adequate motive of charity for their labors and the rebuffs they met with; nor by the prospect of any suitable pecuniary reward. Their only resource then seemed to be, to execute speedily, what could not be done with any satisfaction. Accordingly groups of children were found, or collected, and vaccinated at once. Some of them never knew, nor ever saw again, the person who had vaccinated them. Some of these cases did not take, and were not revaccinated; and in many other instances nobody can now say whether the preventive process took place or not.

The objects intended to be secured by a good medical police, are the respectability, harmony, and usefulness of the medical faculty. Such a police a large majority of the physicians of this place have been endeavoring to establish for many years past. It would be difficult to imagine any measure more decidedly opposed to the wishes and efforts of the best

physicians in this city, than that last adopted to carry vaccination through this place. The rules and regulations which the physicians had adopted to regulate professional intercourse, and the relations and duties which exist between the physician and the patient, were violated and broken down by this arrangement. This was strictly a measure of confusion and disorganization, as it relates to the practitioners of medicine, and of disappointment and false security as it has, and will, affect the health of this city.

It is said that a general vaccination should take place once in seven years. But why defer for seven years what should be done, and can be more conveniently done, every year. Let a ward committee be chosen annually, whose duty it shall be, to ascertain and certify to a ward physician, to be selected for the purpose, the names of such persons as are unable to pay for vaccination. Physicians, both capable and disposed to undertake this service gratuitously, can always be readily found. If any of the poor should decline to avail themselves of this blessing and security, let a discrimination be made in favor of those who should apply for it. After this provision is made, let any proper methods be taken to stir up the whole population of all classes to take the cowpock, so that no one should live six months without it. If no milder method should prove sufficient to produce this effect, let it be enacted by the proper authority, after giving six months notice, that any inhabitant of Boston, falling sick of smallpox, not from his own negligence or fault, shall not be subjected to the inconvenience of being removed from his own dwelling.

In the last vaccination, the physicians were not consulted as to the proper mode of effecting the object, or as to the part they might be inclined to take in it;—had this been done, there can be no doubt that the result would have been very different. This is the more singular, and to be regretted, because the physicians of Boston now are, and for more

than twenty years have been, from our personal knowledge, perfectly disposed, and even desirous, in any proper manner, to give their time and attention to a gratuitous vaccination of the poor. These gentlemen, as a body, have habitually recommended the practice,—explained, and even urged it on the poor, till he who now accepts of it, is ready to suppose that he confers, rather than receives a favor.

We have entered on this subject not because it is a pleasant one, but because it ought to be one of admonition. It is besides part of an obligation we have assumed—to warn the public of any existing danger, or source of fallacious security, on the score of their physical well-being; and as far as may be, to point out a way of escape. One of the effects of the deprecated measure, is a belief in the minds of many parents, that their children have been placed beyond the power of smallpox, while they remain susceptible of taking it. Another effect is an impression, in the minds of many, that from the recent general vaccination, they cannot again be in danger for a long time to come: this leads to indifference and delay, till the preventive is again offered to them without expense, thought or effort on their own part. The past mismanagement, too, has rendered many persons indisposed to pay for an exemption which they now imagine will come to them every few years without expense. We allude now to a portion of the community, perfectly well able to pay for this benefit, as they willingly do in other cases, and would do in this, had they not, by indiscreet and deceptive treatment, been led to form on this topic, notions equally injurious to themselves, and unequal and unjust towards others. While the physicians, thinking they have fully done their part, become tired of recommending a practice, to the merits of which too many seem indifferent, and are waiting to be called on before they move again. Thus both parties are kept at rest and inactive, while the number of

those exposed to casual smallpox is daily increasing.

The subject is far from being exhausted, but we are as unwilling to pursue it to any useless extent, as any of our readers can be to follow us. It is said, in favor of the procedure, that it cost but little money: this is true, but all it did cost, is so much, at least, more than it is worth. If this, however, were the only item of loss and injury, the example would not have merited or received any notice or animadversion from us.

SURGERY.

Fracture of the Thigh bone.—Plan of Treatment recommended by Sir A. Cooper.

In going round the Hospital a few days since, Sir Astley Cooper was led to make some observations on the treatment of fractures of the thigh, and to recommend a plan which we consider as altogether novel. The reasons adduced by Sir Astley Cooper in its favor are certainly ingenious. In all cases of fracture of the os femoris, except when broken immediately above its condyles, Sir Astley Cooper observed that he considered the best plan of treatment was to place BOTH limbs on a double inclined plane. By thus keeping up extension from each limb, the pelvis is not brought lower on one side than another, which effect invariably takes place if the extension be made with *one* thigh only on the double inclined plane.—*London Lancet.*

Successful Case of Acupuncture.

J. T. aged 40, a carpenter, complained of extreme pain in the gastrocnemii muscles of the right leg, extending from the knee to the foot. The pain was increased towards evening, and on taking exercise, frequently accompanied by slight involuntary contractions of the muscles. The integuments were of their natural appearance, with the exception of a small scar, on the back part of the calf. Felt much inconvenience in walking; general health good.

Stated, that about two years ago, while cleaning a window, he fell down and hit his leg against a board, a splinter of which penetrated the calf of his leg to the depth of half an inch. The piece of wood was taken out, and most acute pain followed, which, however, went off in a few days. Eighteen months after the accident, the pain in the leg returned, and continued for several months, notwithstanding the frequent application of leeches, and severe and repeated blistering. The *acupuncture* needle was introduced into the substance of the gastrocnemii muscles, to the extent of an inch and a half at two different places, and allowed to remain for a few minutes; immediately after the application he felt relief, and he remained nearly free from pain for eight days, when, after a long walk, the pain returned; the *acupuncture* was again performed with complete and permanent relief.—*Ib.*

Coxalgia cured by Moxa.

M. Larry presented a young mechanic who had been cured of this disease by repeated applications of moxa. There was ankylosis and shortening of the limb, about four centimètres. M. Larry is of opinion that the shortening is not caused by the displacement of the head of the femur out of its cavity, but by the destruction of the head of the bone and cotyloid cavity. At the same time the Baron presented cured, a young man who had lost by an explosion, twothirds of the left branch of the lower jaw, a similar piece of the upper, of the palate, and edge of the orbit. Several sutures had been used, and the eye extirpated.

Case of a False Joint of ten years standing, with Caries and Fistulæ, in the right Femur, cured by means of the wedge shaped Seton, in less than three months.

J. C. H., 20 years old, a young man from the country, broke, at the age of ten, the right femur

above its middle. A country surgeon treated him in the usual way, but as his parents were necessitated to attend their work in the field, and to leave the youth alone in the house, he rose in the fourth week. In the 8th, a complete false joint had been formed, which compelled him to make use of a stick in walking, at the age of 18. In order to gain a better livelihood, he changed his occupation of herding cattle, but as his work was much severer, the false joint inflamed, and caries of the bone, with two fistular openings, soon followed. On examining the two fistulæ, they were found to open in the false joint itself. Both of them were laid into one, and in the chinks of the soft substance, the needle trephine was applied, boring a hole through the thigh; into this the wedge shaped seton was afterwards introduced. Cold applications were then applied; a reaction commenced in the fourth week, and before the eleventh, the false joint was cleared of its small bones, and the separation, previously unhealthy, became much better. In the twelfth week the callus began to harden. The limb bent no more. The seton was reduced in size daily, and only one string was felt. In the thirteenth week, the patient rose, and in the sixteenth was so completely cured, as to be able to follow his usual occupations.

Case of Rheumatism of the Heart, treated by Acupuncture.

A girl, 18 years of age, after having suffered from an attack of rheumatism in the upper and lower extremities, was seized with a violent pain in the heart, immediately after being relieved of her complaint in the joints. This pain resembled what she had felt in the extremities,—was aggravated by emotions of the mind, during rainy weather, south and easterly winds, and in damp places. Sometimes it continued for several days, with violent palpitations, which became more and more

intense every time it recurred. She was bled both locally and generally, had baths, mustard sinapisms, injections, &c., but without any effect.

After being convinced, from the symptoms, that the disease was rheumatism, we resolved, from the harmlessness of the remedy, to try what effect acupuncturation would have on the patient.

The patient being placed on her back, and a little on her right side, a needle 13 lines in length was introduced between the fifth and sixth ribs, near the middle of the cartilage of the latter. It was then directed with a rotatory motion towards the heart, going from below upwards, and from right to left, without reaching the organ. The patient felt no pain during the introduction. No sooner was this done, however, than she began to stretch out her limbs, then to contract them, and at last to fall into a kind of delirium. This last symptom lasted only ten minutes, and on recovering she seemed as if she was awaking out of a sleep : the pain was still very violent. A second needle, 15 lines in length, was then introduced into the same intercostal space, at a point corresponding to the sixth rib, an inch before its union with the cartilage. The acupuncturation was repeated a third time, with a needle 18 lines in length ; and, according to M. Pegros, who details the case, it no doubt entered the pericardium, and reached the point of the heart. From this time the patient got better, and though the weather was for some time afterwards damp, the rheumatic pains never returned.—*Revue Medicale.*

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

A committee of the Parisian Academy of Medicine has made a report on M. Lesueur's paper relative to his new mode of administering medicines. Cutaneous absorption is considered by M. Lesueur as, in many cases, the best method of introducing medicinal substances into the animal

system ; but he thinks that instead of simple friction on the unbroken skin, the epidermis ought to be first removed by a blister ; a precaution which renders the absorption certain. Fourteen detailed experiments made before the committee, induce them to consider M. Lesueur's process capable of becoming eminently useful. Among other effects, they saw the acetate of morphine produce, in cases of chronic catarrh, cures, which the introduction of the same substance by the mouth never would have effected. One evident cause of the difference which results from M. Lesueur's mode of administering medicines is, that, by adopting it, they escape the changes to which certain substances are exposed by remaining in the stomach. A new committee, composed of five members, has been appointed by the Academy, for the purpose of repeating these interesting and important experiments.

HEMOPTYSIS.

The great heat in the month of June, brought into the hospital several cases of hemoptysis. On the 18th, three cases came in together, and Mr Recamier determined to show his pupils the effect of large doses of nitre, in this complaint, as employed by the Italian physicians. To each of the patients, therefore, he gave half an ounce of nitre, dissolved in a mucilaginous mixture, to be taken in the course of the day. In one patient who had been bringing up blood freely for four days previously, and who had taken no other medicine, the hemoptysis was completely arrested during the first day in the hospital. The day after, it returned, and was again stopped by the same medicine, and did not afterwards recur. This patient took the half ounce of nitre in the course of four hours, by which the urine was very much increased, and some disagreeable sensations were produced in the stomach and mouth, but no other ef-

fects. In the second case, bleeding had been previously, but ineffectually employed, and the hemoptysis continued abundant. On the second day of the administration of the nitre, no trace of blood was perceptible in the expectoration. The medicine was continued for two days more, as a precautionary measure. In this patient, no inconvenience to the stomach was produced by the nitre. The third case was that of a man 45 years of age, who had been subject to severe hemoptysis for ten years previously, the attacks recurring about once in two years, and generally giving way to blood-letting and leeches to the anus. The hemoptysis had this time continued three days, accompanied by great embarrassment of the breathing, and a crepitous rattling in the lower part of the left side of the thorax. He had been bled several times before he entered the hospital, both locally and generally, but the hemoptysis continued. Like the two other patients he took the nitrous mixture. The second day he felt much less enfeebled—the expectoration was not so bloody. The treatment was continued, and the expectoration soon became untinged with blood and puriform. Ultimately, however, the patient sunk with regular hectic fever, presenting, on dissection, several tubercular excavations in both lungs.

We have certainly seen good effects from nitre in considerable doses, given in the common infusion of roses, well acidulated, in conjunction with laudanum in hemoptysis; but we never gave it in such doses as above, nor have we seen such doses exhibited by others. The remedy is worth trial.*—*Med. Chi. Rev.*

* “The liberal use of nitre in hemoptysis,” says Dr N. Chapman, of Philadelphia, “is a practice which I have for several years strongly recommended in my lectures, and a solution of it in brandy is a popular nostrum in this city.”

COLICA PICTONUM CURED BY MEANS OF VINEGAR.

Captain A——, a painter, had the habit of putting his painting pencil in his mouth, after using it in different colors, which contained more or less lead. In the beginning of December, 1823, he experienced slight colics, with dryness of mouth, and constipation: all these symptoms increased, notwithstanding remedies had been used, till the 22d of December, when he was most violently attacked with great anxiety, thirst, hiccough, nausea, and constipation. Dr Vergari prescribed, during three days, oleaginous, saline, and drastic purgatives, enemata, baths, and diluent drinks, without making the least impression on the disease. He now determined to try a mixture of two ounces of vinegar and two pounds of water: this was no sooner administered than it operated like a charm; the pains ceased immediately, the patient fell into a sweet sleep, and had several alvine evacuations as soon as he awoke. The vinegar was repeated two or three times a day till the seventh day, when the patient was perfectly free of disease.

Hufeland's Journal.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, OCT. 31, 1826.

EDITOR'S NOTICE.—The wish of many of our subscribers, as well as great inconvenience for want of room, induce us to increase this paper to 16 pages, according to the notice given in our third volume. This will enable us to use a larger type, and to insert more of useful, and, we presume, of acceptable matter,—besides leaving some room for medical advertisements. After the 26th No. of volume 4th, the price will be 3 dols. 50 cents a year, with a deduction of 50 cents to those who pay in advance.

Those subscribers who have paid two dollars in advance for the paper as it now is, can remit the additional price, when convenient.

CHILDREN'S FOOD.

A lady of Yorkshire observes in a letter dated May 2d, that in consequence of losing her first three children, one during teething, and two of inflammation in the bowels, she gave her fourth child a little limewater in every article of food, adding a dessert, and sometimes only a teaspoonful of limewater to every article, whether liquid or thick. It succeeded in keeping up healthy digestion, and a regular state of the bowels; the child instead of being feverish, flatulent, and fretful, as her preceding children had been, continued cool and cheerful, free from any symptom of indigestion, and cut its teeth without any constitutional disturbance. She has continued this practice with two more of her children with the same good effects. We have known this simple addition to the food of children, prove very efficacious in incipient cases of rickets and of irritable bowels, attended with looseness, &c., but if the child be disposed to costiveness on account of its astringent quality, a little magnesia should be occasionally added to it.—*Gazette of Health.*

This is much better advice than we commonly get from the public prints; it only needs a little explanation to be good. Limewater is useful in cases of relaxed bowels and acid stomachs, and of course useless, if not hurtful in the opposite state of these organs. The above notice seems to imply that it would be beneficial for all children. But is this true? Can anything be done for a child perfectly well, better than to continue that diet and that mode of living which are found to have given him health? Is it not wiser to be contented when we are well, than to disturb the sound functions of the system in order to prevent a disease which may never attack us, by the premature taking of physic? It is not profitable to commence even a war of defence, till we have an enemy to resist.

The influence of intemperance in drink on the animal spirits, is justly deprecated by all who feel the degradation which is consequent on excesses of this nature. The influence of diet on animal bodies is forcibly illustrated by the following fact from a treatise by Dr Mosely. A Mr Parker of Kingston, had a young tiger, which by being fed on milk, sugar

and bread, became so tame that he went about the house like a spaniel, and slept on the same bed with him. Mr Parker was bled for a fever, and slept after it; soon he awoke, for his hitherto peaceable companion had gnawed through his sleeve, detached the compress, and was licking the blood from the orifice. Mr P. and the tiger were in a mutual consternation when he rose from the bed; the tiger gave a spring to the top of a high chest of drawers, from thence in a horrible phrenzy ran about the house, and having escaped to the garden, was shot. So long as he fed on common food, it appears he was perfectly tractable, but the moment he tasted blood, all the ferocious propensities of his nature burst forth.—*Raleigh Register.*

THE HEART.—It has ever been supposed that the heart was the most vital part of man, and that a wound, however trivial, received in it would produce instantaneous death.

M. Larrey, the well known French surgeon, lately presented to the Academy of Mediciné in Paris, the heart of a man, who, in a fit of derangement, produced by grief, stabbed himself with a watchmaker's file. After having penetrated several inches, the instrument broke off level with the skin. The unhappy being was conveyed to an hospital, where it was determined no operation could be attempted. He survived for twentyone days, in, but little pain, and without feeling any difficulty in changing his position. On opening the body, it was seen with surprise that the file had not only pierced the pericardium, and one of the coats of the heart, but that, entering this organ three inches from the point, it had passed obliquely, from the left to the right, and from the lower to the higher part; crossing the left cavity, the middle membrane, and the right cavity.

Cottons & Barnard have just published a new edition of Dr Thacher's American Modern Practice of Physic. Of this work we shall speak more fully next week.

DICTIONARY,
FOR THIS AND SOME PRECEDING WEEKS.

Acupuncture, small punctures made with a needle.

Ankylosis, a stiff joint.

Coxalgia, pain or disease of the hipjoint.

Caries, rottenness, or mortification of the bones.

Cholera, is a purging and vomiting of bile, with anxiety, painful gripings, with spasms of the abdominal muscles and calves of the legs.

Chyme, the soft mass of food as it passes out of the stomach, from which the chyle is elaborated in the small intestines. It is absorbed from the surface of the alimentary canal, and thence enters the bloodvessels.

Cotyloid, the cavity which receives the head of the thighbone.

Enemata, injections, cysters.

Femur, and *os femoris*, the thighbone.

Fistula, a long and sinuous ulcer; it is often a narrow opening leading to a large cavity.

Gastric, pertaining to the stomach. The gastric juice is a fluid separated from the blood by the small exhaling arteries of the stomach, and is poured into the cavity of this organ. It is the principal agent of digestion.

Hemoptysis, a spitting of blood.

Moxa, several different preparations, all of which are intended to be burnt on the skin, for some healing purpose.

Pneumonia, inflammation of the lungs.

Variolated, inoculated with smallpox.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

A VAPOR or SULPHUR BATH can be had at any proper hour of the day, at 3, Central Court. The proper hours are before breakfast, dinner, and tea. The best time is between 11 and 2 o'clock.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

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ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D. on *the Principles and Practice of Surgery*.

JAMES F. DANA, M. D. on *Chemistry*.

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D. on *the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine*.

EDWARD DELAFIELD, M. D. on *Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children*.

JOHN B. BECK, M. D. on *Materia Medica and Botany*.

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In conformity with the ordinances of the Honorable the Regents, of the University, and the Laws of the State of New-York, every Student is required to attend two full courses of all the Lectures delivered in the College, before he can be admitted as a candidate for the Doctorate; unless said Student shall have attended Lectures in this College prior to the Session of 1822-3, or shall have attended one entire course of Lectures delivered in some incorporated Medical School or University.

The candidate must also have studied three years with some respectable practitioner of Medicine, and have arrived at the age of 21 years.

In announcing the new organization of the College and its first session in November next, the Board of Trustees believe that the high expectations of the Profession and the Public will be fully realized, and sustained by the distinguished reputation and talents of the several Gentlemen who have been appointed to fill the respective professorships.

By order of the Board of Trustees,
JOHN WATTS, Jr. M. D., Pres.
NICOLL H. DERING, M. D., Regist.

ATHENEUM : OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.

FOR NOVEMBER I,

JUST published by John Cotton, 184 Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St.

CONTENTS.—On the superior Excellence of Christianity, compared with other religious Systems—Time's Changes—The Last Coffin. From the German—Gifts and Givers—Eustace St. Valerie—Sketches of Paris in 1826—Next-door Neighbours—My Transmogrifications—Astrology and Astrologers—Autobiography of Mansie Wauch, Tailor—Perplexities of Portrait Painters—Varieties—Method of procuring good Yeast—&c.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1826.

NO. 25.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

AMERICAN SURGERY.

Four operations of bronchotomy have been successfully made, for the removal of foreign bodies from the trachea, by AMASA TROWBRIDGE, M. D. of Jefferson Co. N. Y.; two within a few weeks past.— These operations have been made on subjects from twenty months, to seven years of age. An interesting case of this nature was communicated by this gentleman to the Medical Society of the State of New-York, at their sitting in 1819, and was published by them in their Transactions.

In this, as well as in the succeeding operations, the operator attributes his success to his particular mode of operating. He has brought into use an entirely new set of instruments to be used in this operation. One, which he denominates a distender, is an important improvement, as well as the mode of uniting the wound after the operation. The following is an extract from the communication alluded to:—

“In all cases of bronchotomy, the steel distender is pre-

ferable to tubes. In placing a tube, when there is a substance to be extracted or forced out by coughing, the operator is extremely embarrassed; he has no opportunity to inspect the cavity of the trachea, or to seize the offending substance when it is thrown to the opening. The tube is constantly thrown out, or pushed too deep into the trachea, or filled with blood and mucus, so that its frequent removal and replacement become necessary. The steel distender, with indentations on its outer sides, remains firm when it is placed; it opens the incision so that the cavity can constantly be inspected, the offending body seen, thrown out by coughing, or searched for by suitable instruments. In the operation when made for croup, the distender is preferable to the tube, and the perpendicular incision into the trachea may be made more successful than the transverse one. It is generally admitted, that, in cases of croup, there is formed, after the third or fourth day of the disease, a membranous lining of the trachea, commencing

ing at the larynx and extending to the bifurcation of the trachea, of considerable tenacity, varying in thickness and density; a quantity of mucus is at the same time constantly emitted from the lungs. Suffocation may take place by the thickening of this morbid membrane and the lodgment of mucus in its cavity, or for want of power in the system to throw it off,—or for a passage in the glottis for this secreted mass of purulent matter, or serous effusion, to be thrown out. No person of experience, or sound understanding, would suppose that a horizontal incision between the rings of the trachea, and the placing of a tube could relieve; but if the incision were made perpendicularly, and freely through the rings of the trachea, and a distender introduced,—if the membrane, or morbid mass, could not be removed immediately with forceps, or scoops, it would give free exit to the mucus, and prolong life till the membrane could separate from the trachea, and be removed, or thrown out. The needle and ligature are preferable to adhesive plaster, for securing a wound in this operation. The want of success in uniting the sides of the trachea, when it is divided perpendicularly, is owing to their not being kept in contact; for divided cartilage unites in the same manner, and

with as much certainty, as bone, when the divided portions are kept in contact. The act of swallowing disposes the two edges to separate, and unless they are brought firmly together by passing a ligature deeply through the adjoining muscles, there is danger that they will remain disunited and occasion serious difficulties. There is but little inconvenience from blood drawn into the trachea during this operation where an offending body is lodged at the lower part of the trachea.—A foreign substance may be drawn into the trachea, lodged near its bifurcation, and remain there for weeks, without producing much distress; but when raised to the glottis, the patient is in a state of suffocation, and may expire suddenly."

The Doctor observes, in a letter:

"I have for some time past turned my attention to the diseases of the trachea, and at length find myself, in some of its affections, more successful than it appears Charles Bell was; for he says, in his system of Operative Surgery, that he was several times on the eve of making the operation of bronchotomy, but never did it; but he does not give his reasons for not doing it. If he had once made the operation, whether successful or not, I am sure he would have taught

a very different mode of operating afterwards, from the one he has laid down in his Surgery. Whether Mr Cooper, and others, who have written on this subject, ever operated, I cannot tell. I should suppose, however, that they had but a slight knowledge of the difficulties to be encountered, for their directions are very deficient, and their remarks do not embrace many important hints for consideration.

So soon as time will permit, I intend to furnish you with some general views and remarks on this interesting subject, with a description of my instruments and mode of using them, which I think will be of some value to the surgery of our country. A. TROWBRIDGE.

Watertown, Oct. 17, 1826.

We insert this communication with much pleasure, and hope the enterprising and intelligent author of it will pursue his subject, and in due time, as he encourages us to expect, let us have his further reports and observations.

ENGLISH DIETETICS.

OF DRINKS.

Continued from page 195.

6. LAKE WATER is a collection of rain, spring, and river waters, contaminated with various animal and vegetable matter, which from its stagnant nature have undergone putrefaction in it. This objection

may be urged with greater force against the use of water collected in ponds and ditches, and which the inhabitants of some districts are often under the necessity of drinking. I have known an endemic diarrhoea to arise from such a circumstance.

7. MARSH WATER, being the most stagnant, is the most impure of all water, and is generally loaded with decomposing vegetable matter. There can be no doubt, that numerous diseases have sprung up from its use.

It is, however, in vain that pure water is discovered, if proper means be not adopted to convey it for the use of the inhabitants. In ancient times this was done by means of aqueducts of extraordinary magnificence; and the materials of which they were composed were even then acknowledged to be capable of affecting the water which flowed through them. Palladius testifies his aversion to the use of lead, as apt to become covered with ceruse, and thereby rendered poisonous; and Vitruvius and Columella recommend pipes of earthenware, as not only cheaper but *more wholesome* than that of lead. Dr Lambe, to whom we are indebted for an important work*

* Researches into the Properties of Spring Water, with Medical Cautions against the use of Lead.

on this subject, states, that there is a great diversity in the corrosive powers of different waters: in some places the use of leaden pumps has been discontinued, from the expense entailed on the proprietors by the perpetual want of repair. Dr Lambe states an instance where the proprietor of a well ordered his plumber to make the lead of a pump of double the thickness of the metal usually employed on such occasions, to save the charge of repairs; because he had observed that *the water was so hard* as he called it, *that it corroded the lead very soon*. If any acidity be communicated to the water, from the accidental intrusion of decayed leaves or other vegetable matter, its power of dissolving this metal will be increased to a very dangerous extent. The noted colic of Amsterdam is said by Tronchin, who has written a history of the epidemic, to have been occasioned by leaves falling and putrifying in leaden cisterns filled with rain water. Van Swieten has also related an instance of a whole family who were afflicted with colic from a similar cause;* and Dr Lambe entertains no doubt, but that the very striking case recorded in the *Medical Commentaries*† proceeded more

from some foulness in the cistern, than from the solvent power of the water. In this instance, the officers of a packet vessel used water out of a leaden cistern; the men also drank the same water, except that the latter had been kept in wood: the consequence was, that all the officers were seized with colic, while the men remained healthy. Sir George Baker has furnished the following striking illustration of this subject:—"The most remarkable case that now occurs to my memory," says he, "is that of Lord Ashburnham's family, in Sussex; to which spring water was supplied from a considerable distance in leaden pipes. In consequence, his lordship's servants were every year tormented with colic, and some of them died. An eminent physician of Battle, who corresponded with me on the subject, sent up some gallons of this water, which were analyzed by Dr Higgins, who reported that the water had contained more than the common proportion of carbonic acid; and that he found in it lead in solution, which he attributed to the action of the carbonic acid. In consequence of this representation, Lord Ashburnham substituted wooden for leaden pipes; and from that time his family have experienced no particular complaints in their

* Van Swieten ad Boerhaav. Aphor. 1060, Comment.

† Duncan Med. Comment., Dec. 2, 1794.

bowels." As timber pipes are liable to decay, and to impart a bad taste to the water, those made of castiron are to be greatly preferred.

For the purification and preservation of water, numerous methods have been adopted. The mechanical impurities may be removed by filtration, a process which is suggested by nature herself; for all springs arising through sand, gravel, &c., must undergo this process. Hence it occurred, that if waters of a putrid, marshy, or unwholesome nature, were filtered through a factitious bed of sand, or a vessel made of porous stone,* they might be deprived of their bad qualities. As that peculiar property of water which constitutes what is termed *hardness* generally depends on the presence of *sulphate of lime* in solution, it cannot be removed by simple filtration; but the addition of an alkaline carbonate† twentyfour hours before it is used, will be found to restore it; or, if it should depend on *supercarbonate of lime*, long ebullition, without any addition, will be found sufficient for its cure. Another mode of improving water, and the one that has been most recently

discovered, is by means of charcoal, a substance which enjoys, in an eminent degree, the property of preserving water from corruption, and of purifying it after it has been corrupted: hence the filtration of water through alternate layers of sand and charcoal offers a ready and effectual mode of abstracting its impurities; especially when they consist of animal or vegetable matter. Where we have reason, however, to suspect much injurious contamination, the process of boiling should never be omitted; after which it may be strained and filtered, and lastly agitated in contact with the atmosphere, in order to restore to it its natural proportion of air. In China, water is never drank till it has been boiled. The mischievous effects of impure water, where it cannot be corrected by any chemical process, are said to be best counteracted by some bitter vegetable. Virey supposes that this circumstance first induced the Chinese to infuse the leaves of the tea plant.

The juices and infusions of vegetable and animal matter, constitute the second division of drinks.

TOAST WATER. By impregnating water with the soluble parts of toasted bread, it will frequently agree with those stomachs which rebel against the use of the pure

* Various machines have been constructed for this purpose; but the most modern, and, in my opinion, the best, is that known by the name of "BENNET'S PATENT FILTERING MACHINE."

† In the proportion of from ten to fifteen grains to every pint.

fluid. It is thus rendered slightly nutritive, holding a certain portion of gum and starch in solution. Sir A. Car-
lisle recommends that it should be prepared with hard biscuit, reduced by fire to a coffee color. This drink, he says, being free from yeast, is a most agreeable beverage. Much depends on the water being at a boiling temperature, and it ought to be drank as soon as it has cooled sufficiently ; for, by keeping, it acquires an unpleasant flavor. Infusions of other kinds of bread, in particular of toasted oatcakes, also dried or toasted oatmeal, have been recommended ; but the taste of such infusions would not be palatable to any one who has not been accustomed to oatbread.

BARLEY WATER. The decoction of barley is a very ancient beverage ; it is recommended by Hippocrates, and preferred by him to every other aliment in acute diseases. Barley has the advantage over other grains, in affording less viscid potations. The invention of *pearl barley* has greatly increased the value of this grain ; it is prepared by the removal of its husk or cuticle, and afterwards by being round-ed and polished in a mill. These wellknown granules consist chiefly of fecula, with portions of mucilage, gluten, and sugar, which water ex-

tracts by decoction ; but the solution soon passes into the acetous fermentation. The bran of barley contains an acrid resin, and it is to get rid of such an ingredient that it is deprived of its cuticle. The addition of lemon juice and sugarcandy greatly improve the flavor of this drink.

GRUEL. Oats, when freed from their cuticle, are called *groats* ; in which state, as well as when ground into meal, they yield to water, by coction, the fecula they contain, and form a nutritious gruel, which has also the property of being slightly aperient. It should never be kept longer than forty-eight hours, as it becomes acescent after this period. Gruel may be made of different consistence, according to the object of its potation. If it be used as a demulcent drink, it should be thin ; and may be made, as Dr Kitchener, our culinary censor, informs us, by mixing well together, by degrees, in a pint basin, one tablespoonful of oatmeal with three of cold water, and then adding carefully a pint of boiling water, which is to be boiled for five minutes, stirring it all the time, to prevent the oatmeal from burning at the bottom of the stewpan ; then strain through a hair sieve, to separate the undissolved parts of the meal from the gruel. If a more substantial repast is

required, double the quantity of oatmeal may be treated in a similar manner. To increase the nutritive quality of this aliment, broth or milk may be substituted for water. Some persons are in the habit of introducing a piece of butter into gruel; but the propriety of this practice is questionable, where the stomach is disposed to generate acidity.

Dr. Morris's Case of Stone in the Bladder, with a new method of relieving the sufferings occasioned by this complaint.

The following particulars we have been permitted to extract from a highly interesting communication by Dr. Morris, of Canada. The Doctor's observations derive additional interest from the circumstance of his having been himself the subject of the disease he describes.

Many months since, our author states, he was attacked with symptoms of calculus. He had "violent and excruciating pain in his right ureter, increasing at intervals for about twelve hours, with a profuse discharge of blood." After this the calculus "dropped into the bladder."

To set the nature of the affection out of all doubt, the Doctor had a sound introduced by an eminent surgeon. The result of this operation was a complete confirmation of the conclusion which the previous symptoms had led the patient to adopt—and now an opportunity presented itself of putting to the test of experience, on his own person, a speculation which the Doctor had entertained for a considerable time anterior to the supervention of the symptoms above mentioned. Different considerations had inclined Dr. M. to the opinion, that the introduction of a lubricating fluid into the bladder would be productive of ease

and advantage. This experiment, therefore, he now determined on trying on his own person, and he at length put the project in execution. "I first took care," says Dr. Morris, "to rid myself of the contents of my bladder; this I had no sooner accomplished, than, with a large syringe, I injected through a small leaden tube reaching to the sphincter, no further about two inches of the cold drawn castor oil, and I cannot express to you my feelings occasioned by the change which took place upon the moment of its introduction, for it seemed as if a new lower half had been given me."—"The absence of former symptoms still continuing, I went to bed, and can safely say that I had not known, for some time previous, the pleasure of a sound and uninterrupted sleep. Latterly I never awoke without a wish to make water, and the morning following was the first exception to it. When I did obey the call, I took care, finding the oil came last, to leave as much within the bladder as I could. This I had little difficulty in effecting, as it does not dispose the bladder to contract as other fluids do."

After this, the bladder was constantly supplied with two or three ounces of oil, and under this treatment every symptom of irritation vanished, and during two months, namely, from the first introduction of the oil up to the date of the Doctor's departure for Canada, no one symptom reappeared to remind him of the existence of the calculous concretion.

Previous to using the injection, Dr. Morris had tried the introduction of Weiss's instruments, and endeavored to enlarge the passage with the hope of expelling it, knowing that the stone was not large; but, "whether it was from any defect in the form of the instrument I employed," says Dr. M., "or from my own want of skill in the management of it, which latter is the more likely, I

cannot say; I can only affirm, that with all the delicacy I could master, I could not obviate the disagreeable feeling its presence occasioned. The contraction of the bladder in its endeavors to expel it were intolerable, and with the extension of the parts and irritation it left, it gave rise to an incontinence of urine of three months' duration."

An interesting remark of Dr. Morris's, to which we cannot neglect calling the reader's attention, is, that after the injection of the oil, and during the experiment, he has observed particles of sand evacuated. Before the use of the injections the Dr. does not appear to have detected any gravel passing with the urine. He is disposed therefore to believe, that the appearance of sand is to be attributed to a softening of the stone by the oil; and, taking into account the absence of symptoms of irritation in the kidney, ureter, and bladder, that view of the matter is perhaps more probable than any other. Of the further progress of Dr. Morris's experiment, we shall be very glad to receive any information the Doctor may be enabled to communicate.

Should the result of any repetition of Dr. M.'s experiment, that may be made on this side of the Atlantic, reach us, we shall of course make it known, on the earliest convenient occasion, to all the readers of this Journal.—*Lon. Med. and Phys. Journ.*

An account of the process of MM. Thenard and Darcet, for preserving substances from Humidity.

On the 27th of February, 1824, there was read at the Academy of Sciences of Paris, a *Memoir* by MM. Thenard and Darcet, on the employment of fatty bodies for making coverings and unalterable plasters, and for making moist places salubrious. This process, the effects of which have been established by several years' experience, consists in causing a mixture of one part of

oil and two parts of resin to penetrate, by means of an intense heat, either porous stones or plaster. The bodies penetrated with this mixture acquire a singular degree of solidity, and become absolutely impermeable to moisture.

This process can be employed for rendering low and damp places salubrious. It was tried at the Sorbonne, and the expense of it was only 16 sous a square whose side is 39 English inches. The other objects to which it is proposed to apply it are, houses, statues placed in the open air, as reliefs and sculptures in plaster, the ceilings and walls of rooms intended for Fresco paintings, basins for holding water, and reservoirs for holding grain.

M. Thenard exhibited in the Academy several objects of art executed in plaster by his process. In order to shew its efficacy, he exposed to the open air for several years, a bas relief, half of which was formed of ordinary plaster, whilst the other half was prepared. This last half was perfectly preserved, while the other displayed visible traces of disintegration. This process does not resemble those which consist in covering bodies with a sort of skin which keeps off humidity. The body is actually penetrated with the mixture to the depth sometimes of several inches.—*The Chemist.*

ON DRESSING POTATOES.

Where these useful roots are boiled for the purpose of feeding swine, or other animals, they should be put into bags or sacks, leaving room for them to swell, and when sufficiently boiled, the sacks should be taken out and left to drain, for the water becomes so strongly impregnated by the poisonous properties of the roots, as to be highly detrimental to animals in general. This will account for the disappointment of those persons who feed their pigs with potatoes mashed with the water in which they have been boiled. When pre-

pared agreeably to the above direction, potatoes become a most beneficial food for pigs, but they are by far less nutritious in the raw state, for the poisonous qualities not being drawn out by boiling, it counteracts the benefit of the farinaceous qualities of the root.

LITERARY NOTICE.

American Modern Practice ; or, a Simple Method of Prevention and Cure of Diseases, according to the latest Improvements and Discoveries, comprising a Practical System adapted to the Use of Medical Practitioners of the United States. To which is added an Appendix, &c. &c. A new Edition, improved. By JAMES THACHER, M.D., A.A.S. 1 vol. 8vo. pp. 804. Price, \$4. Cottons & Barnard, Boston, 1826.

We make the following extract from Dr Thacher's preface, in order to express an opinion afterward.

Such has been the rapid progress of medical science, and such the essential improvements, effected by the zeal and talents of the professors and medical practitioners of the United States, within the last thirty years, that many periodical publications have been issued to record and promulgate important discoveries.—These augment our materials for constituting a practical work, embracing, in a methodical view and condensed form, the principles of modern practice, every way adapted to the use of American physicians, and calculated for the meridian of the present day. Such is the object which the author has for years had in contemplation; and the fruits of persevering labour and research have now resulted in a compendium of the most modern and approved modes of treating the diseases of our country, and of the most judicious application of the medicinal productions of our own soil. The high responsibility which devolves on an

author who undertakes to dispense instruction and rules of practice pertaining to health and life, cannot fail of prompting his solicitude to a conscientious discharge of duty : nor will his sense of the high obligations of honor and moral rectitude, permit aught to pass from his pen without the strongest conviction of its correctness and utility. Throughout the whole course of this compilation, the most substantial authorities have been consulted, such as no one, it is presumed, will be disposed to impeach, and under whose influence, even the wise and learned of the medical faculty will not disdain to prescribe. Dr Thomas's *Modern Practice* has unquestionably acquired in this country its merited popularity and repute ; but in this compilation there is an evident redundancy on the one hand, and a deficiency on the other, as respects American practice. Should it therefore be found that the present volume contains his appropriate practical precepts incorporated with our own improvements, it may with just propriety be recommended as a substitute for that English production. Disclaiming all pretensions to theoretical explanations, and rejecting hypothetical disquisition as fallacious, I have directed my views simply to rules of practice. In preparing the present edition, I have consulted the most approved European authors, especially the very elaborate and erudite production of Dr. J. M. Good, and the valuable works of Drs. Parr, Armstrong, Abernethy, &c. But as respects the epidemic diseases with which our own country has recently been visited, precedence has been given to American authorities as the surest guide to American practitioners ; and those formidable epidemics which have justly excited the public interest and alarm, are portrayed in their true characters, with their medical treatment, according to the views of the most judicious and experienced physicians."

The reader will here see what the author has attempted; why he has published the work before us, and the means he possessed to render it useful.

We fully agree with Dr Thacher that there is, and for some time has been, a call for a system of American Practice. Our climate, at once variable, and extreme, affected by every variety of soil, surface, and local influence, and consequently affecting the health of an immense continent,—must produce morbid affections more or less peculiar to these States. Our social habits and daily pursuits, and still more our want of sufficient and salutary occupation,—have been the source of many derangements of health, for the prevention and cure of which we must chiefly look to our own resources; to our own knowledge of morbific causes, and the means of counteracting them; to many native remedies and the best methods of preparing and administering them. So far as there is any thing peculiar in the causes of disease in these western regions, and in the effects they produce, so far we must look to the medical observers and practitioners of the country, for the appropriate methods of prevention and cure.

In accomplishing these duties, the American physician will find valuable and important assistance in Dr Thacher's book. The compiler has made a judicious use of the various materials and sources of information to which he had access, and has enriched and cemented the whole mass of facts and instruction, by his own experience and observation. Dr

Thacher has lived too long, and improved his time too well, not to be convinced that the only theory in medical science which can safely be trusted, are those principles which have been deduced from a sufficient number of facts, confirmed by experiment and observation. Hence he always attaches much more weight to known facts, than to speculation and hypothesis, however ingenious and plausible. So far as we can judge, we think the author of the American Modern Practice of Medicine has executed the task he has undertaken, with candor, fidelity, and success.

CRUSTA SERPIGINOSA INFANTUM.

A species of *itch*, termed by German authors *crusta serpiginosa*, is frequently in children improperly considered as a syphilitic affection.

When of long standing, the child affected with this complaint becomes miserably emaciated, from constant irritation and want of sleep, while the whole surface of the body, together with the scalp and face, is covered over with an angry papular eruption, so that the skin, when the papulæ are very numerous, assumes a red or copper color. Sometimes also extensive desquamations take place, and superficial ulcerations, particularly about the arms, folds of the thigh, &c.

As the eruption in this disease appears on the face as well as elsewhere, it may be alleged, perhaps, that it is improper to call it a species of *itch*; some persons being of opinion, that no eruption of this nature under any circumstances, ever affects this part.

The accuracy of this opinion, however, is denied by the writer to whom we are principally indebted for the preceding description, who, in sup-

port of the contrary opinion, observes:—

“1st. We have seen two cases of true *pustular* itch, affecting the ears and face in adults.

“2dly. We believe the face in adults is so rarely affected with psora only because constant exposure to the air tends to harden it, so that it is less liable to suffer from the contact of infectious matter.

“3dly. The hands are, it is true, equally exposed, *not equally perhaps?* but they only suffer in those parts which, by their situation, are least exposed, and consequently covered with a more tender cuticle, namely, between the fingers, the wrists, &c.

“4thly. The face in infants does not enjoy this immunity from psora, because in them its cuticle is scarcely less tender than that on other parts.

“And, 5thly. When a nurse and child, both free from itch, are exposed to its infection, the disease always appears first on the child, as being the more susceptible of the two.—*Ed. Med. Journ. Jan. p. 239.*

OF AGE.

Every living thing has its beginning and ending, and undergoes innumerable changes. Thus we see that infancy is weak and feeble; but youth is comely, flourishing and, luxuriant. Manhood is plump, strong, and full of stature; but old age droops, becomes weak, languid, and dry, the sad presages of approaching dissolution. Plants are subjected to the same vicissitudes, and go through the same changes. In their infant, or very useful state, they are small and weak, destitute of flowers and fruit; when more advanced, they wanton in beautiful and shining colors, being the most agreeable, and, as it were, in the joyous spring of life; in summer, being then more plump, firm, and strong, but less splendid, they bear fruit: in autumn, or old age, they droop, grow dry,

and wither, returning to dust whence they came. The ivy, in its first or tender state, has spearshaped leaves, and bears neither flowers nor fruit. This is that variety, which Bauhine calls “Ivy creeping on the ground.” The same plant, when more advanced, bears fine lobed leaves, climbs on trees and walls, and is barren. This variety, Bauhine calls the “Greater barren ivy.” In the next, or more mature state, it sends forth threelobed leaves, and, leaving its props and supporters, it rises by its own strength, and puts on the appearance of a pretty tall tree, being loaded with flowers and fruit. This is the “Free ivy.” But when old, it puts forth eggshaped leaves, without lobes. This is the “Poet’s ivy.” Daily experience abundantly shows, that all plants undergo a variety of changes. From the seed spring up tender shoots, which at first resemble small shrubs; these, by degrees, acquire a firm trunk, and bear flowers and fruit; after this, the branches flag, and are covered, as well as the trunk, with moss; first one branch decaying, and then another, till the whole tree moulders away, and *the place thereof knoweth it no more.*—*Mec. Mag.*

ON SOUNDS.

I believe it to be an established opinion that sound is conveyed through the air in undulations, similar to those produced by the falling of a stone into water, with this exception, that in water the undulations move on a plain surface, whereas in the air they move in a spherical form. Concluding, then, that in the daytime innumerable undulations take place, the passage of one undulation must be considerably retarded by the undulations of other sounds. In the night time, when the greater portion of noises have ceased, sound is conveyed to a far greater distance; partly owing to the undulations being less retarded by other undulations; in part, because the atmosphere is

colder, which is much more favorable to the transmission of sounds; and partly, because there is a greater degree of moisture in the air, which moisture acts as a very good conductor. Franklin states, that at a distance of two miles he heard the sound produced by striking two stones under water.—*Ib.*

A curious case of difficult breathing is recorded in a foreign journal, cured by the application of a bandage, extracted from a private letter from Dr Gilby. The respiration was so very laborious, and at times interrupted, that the doctor was fearful of a fatal result. Bleeding, &c. had been tried during the two previous days unavailingly; a bandage was applied pretty tight round the thorax and considerable part of the abdomen; the respiration became gradually easier, and in 24 hours the patient was enabled to "walk gently about the house."

MARVELLOUS EFFECTS OF ACUPUNCTURATION.

Dr Carbaro, it appears, has published a long essay on this subject, containing some startling propositions, such as penetrating the largest bloodvessels and nerves with impunity, &c. He proceeds to relate some experiments on kittens; three of which were plunged into cold water, and retained there till life was apparently extinct, which being made evident to the bystanders, the Doctor tried to resuscitate them by ordinary means in vain. He then passed the needle through the heart; at the end of fifteen minutes the needle began to move, which went on increasing, followed by motions of the extremities, respiration, crying, and finally by the movement of the whole body.

His paper concludes with the successful application of the needles in a case of erysipelas of the head, with a threatening of phrenitis. "It was beautiful," says the doctor, "to see

the red color disappearing a minute and a half after the operation; so that, in twelve minutes, the face had acquired its natural color, the volume of the head had decreased, the eyes opened, the delirium vanished, together with the fever, and the cure was effected with the rapidity of lightning!"—*Annali Universa. Agos.*

BOSTON, TUESDAY, NOV. 7, 1826.

We hope our friends will not be less content than we are with the enlargement of this paper; for one now seems to breathe a freer atmosphere, and to move in a more liberal and adequate space. Formerly we could hardly enter on a single subject, and pursue it to any advantageous or satisfactory extent, before we were checked and admonished that we were too nearly approaching the end of our narrow limits. To the reader it must have been like sitting down to dine,—and after a good beginning and the promise of a feast, to find the main dish of his hopes suddenly removed. Another, it is true, is substituted in its place; but there is always something of loss and disappointment in being unexpectedly obliged to exchange what we already approve, for what is uncertain and untried. And even to those who have no dislike to variety and change, these fail to satisfy, if not occasionally blended with something more solid and substantial. In proportion to its size, the paper will be cheaper than before; for while the number of pages is doubled, the price is increased but one half.

OUR CONDUCT TOWARD THE SICK.

It is not uncommon to see people who are welldisposed, make great

mistakes in their conduct toward their sick friends and acquaintance. They crowd the house and apartment of the sick, as if governed by a gossipping curiosity, rather than any desire to be useful. Instead of this, it should be recollect, that wherever we are not wished, we are in the way, and had better be at home. If one is actuated by friendship, and not sufficiently intimate with the family to make it proper to call at the house, let him send to inquire after the state of his friend, and offer his services whenever he can be useful, but remain at a distance. Others again are grossly unfeeling and indiscreet when with the sick. To be serviceable, the companion and nurse of the sick should be docile, still and attentive,—not given to idle and thoughtless conversation, which may alarm or offend the sick, and do much mischief. Say nothing unless on business and to the purpose. Hear, think, and act, with as few words as possible. Do not impertinently interfere with the physician's directions, nor advise a different medical attendant, without sufficient reason,—and then only in the proper place, time and manner.

A clergyman the other day, who ought to have known and done better, incautiously expressed, in the hearing of the patient, that he was very sick, and ought to have a second physician in consultation. The patient was feeble, sensitive, and of course easily alarmed; he became quite agitated, and if it had not been for the tranquillity and prudence of his wife, much injury and confusion would have ensued. What would

this minister have thought, if the physician, in his turn, seeing a parishioner of the former much agitated with fears and doubts respecting her spiritual concerns, had advised her to send for different and better aid, while he was soothing, instructing and directing her, in the best manner?

A vain curiosity, a propensity to be busy and important, carries many to the house of sickness and mourning, where everything is made worse by their indelicate and obtrusive intermeddling with every existing arrangement. Whoever is so situated as to be protected from the influence and interruption of such pretended friends, but real disturbers of the peace of a silent and afflicted family, should be thankful for the exemption:

What are the circumstances most likely to check the perspiration? and what are the consequences of checking it?

The most frequent circumstance by which perspiration is checked, and a morbid state of the habit thereby induced, is the exposure of the body, bathed in perspiration, and in a state of languor, to a current of air. Here, the first effect is to carry off the atmosphere, if we may so speak, of perspired aërisome fluid with which the body is surrounded, and to expose the openmouthed, cutaneous exhalants, or, in less technical language, the pores of the skin, to the direct influence of the breeze. To attempt to explain the immediate effect of such exposure on the skin, and its function, would be treading on hypothetical ground; but, whatever it may be, the whole habit soon suffers;—a feeling of weariness and pain is felt in the limbs, the mind becomes equally weakened—the

forehead is hot and aching.—conversation and social intercourse cease to please—the breathing is irregular—the tongue clammy—and the palms of the hands are hot and dry; while, at the same time, rigors and chilliness are felt, as it were, creeping over the frame. A febrile paroxysm is already formed, which either terminates on perspiration being again restored; or it is progressively repeated and constitutes regular fever; or is accompanied with pains in the joints, characteristic of rheumatism; or with cough, and an increased discharge from the mucous membrane of the nostrils and chest, symptomatic of catarrh; or many other diseases may supervene, according to the previous state of the habit or predisposition, but all attributable to the same exciting cause, the sudden check given to the perspiration. If this statement be correct, it may justly be demanded, how can we reconcile with it the fact, that the Roman youth, covered with sweat and dust from their exertions in the Campus Martius, plunged into the Tiber, not only with impunity, but with a certainty of renewing their vigor? We reply, that the mental excitement under which they were at the moment, and the powerful action of the heart and arterial system, induced by their exertions being yet unsubdued, the immediate application of the cold water to every part of the body at once, though it drove the blood, for a few moments, from the surface, was followed by a reaction, such as always takes place in bathing when it acts beneficially, which again restored the equilibrium of the circulation, and, instead of producing disease, ensured health. If the Roman youth, however, instead of plunging into the river the instant their exertions ceased, had sat down and waited till the sense of fatigue and languor were felt, the custom would have been productive of the most dangerous results.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

"As life abounds with misery, they are to be considered the greatest men and the most honorable members of society, who are best able to relieve it. What avails it to miserable man that a new planet is discovered; or a new moon belonging to an old planet; or the doctrine of innate ideas; or liberty and necessity confirmed and invalidated? But it concerns him beyond expression, when a remedy is pointed out for the gout, the stone, a fever; for blindness, deafness, lameness, madness; for the preservation of his life, or the lives of those, in whom his whole happiness is involved."

MILITARY GLORY.

Julius Cesar, according to his own confession, in the conquest of Gaul occasioned the loss of *one million two hundred thousand lives*; and it is supposed that the civil wars in which he was engaged destroyed an equal number. Two millions four hundred thousand men, *murdered* to aggrandize one man!

DICTIONARY,

Bronchotomy, opening the bronchos or windpipe.

Calculus, the gravel, the stone in the bladder.

Cerusse, white lead; subcarbonate of lead.

Colica Pictonum, the Devonshire, or painter's colic; supposed to arise from the absorption of lead into the system.

Carbonate, a neutral salt formed by the union of the carbonic acid, fixed air, with an alkaline, earthy, or metallic base; as the carbonate of potash, soda, and lime.

Fecula, starch.

Glottis, the upper part or mouth of the larynx.

Papula, a small pointed elevation of the cuticle, with an inflamed base, not tending to suppuration; generally terminating in scurf.

Psora, *Scabies*, both names for the itch.

Sulphate of Lime, the union of lime and the sulphuric acid; formerly called vitriolic acid.

Thorax, the chest.

Trachea, the windpipe; *larynx*, the upper part of the windpipe.

Ureter, the membranous canal passing from the kidney to the bladder.

AN EMINENT PHYSICIAN DECEASED.

Died at Portland, on the 18th of last month, NATHANIEL COFFIN, M.D., aged 82.

Of all the language which we delight to apply to those who have left us, after having won our love and respect, the word *good* seems at once the most appropriate and acceptable; for goodness is right conduct proceeding from right motives; and we shall nowhere find anything better than this. There are several traits of character, pleasing and attractive in themselves, and which constitute much of the local and temporary popularity of individuals; but which, existing alone or in excess, unbalanced by the more essential ingredients of excellence, are not only unproductive of good, but of dangerous tendency. Though we are so happy as to feel justified in rejecting the appalling doctrine of the total depravity of our nature, yet man is so weak in himself, so surrounded by the temptations to a devious course, which at all times more or less assail him, that he who stands firm in rectitude, and habitually discharges the duties of his station, must, in justice, be supposed to act from principle and effort. Men are in society what their influence makes them. Through a long life the deceased was steadily devoted to a faithful discharge of his professional duties. He was kind and attentive to the poor, ready to obey their calls, and "indulgent to forgive the debt unrepaid." For a long period, and through an extensive region, Dr Coffin held the first place among his brethren; and was sought and con-

sulted almost to the close of life, when other aid, and other means had failed to procure relief. After many a night of solicitude and care, spent in devising and administering the means of alleviating severe pain, he has returned to his home, fatigued with the labors of the past, but warmed and refreshed at heart, in reflecting that he had been successful in his efforts. Such is the life of every good physician.

Dr Coffin was always courteous and wellbred; not less estimable in his domestic and social habits and relations, than in his medical capacity and services. There is much in the career of the deceased which the junior members, and all the members of the medical Faculty, might imitate, with reputation to themselves, and benefit to the community. But the young should not be content to pause at the point where the aged cease to advance. For though Dr C. enjoyed the rare privilege, in his day, of studying and operating under the eye of the physicians and surgeons of London—the science of medicine, and the whole mechanism, resources and triumphs of surgery, have been so much advanced and improved within the last 50 years, that what was eminence then, is no more than mediocrity now. The young should aim to be what the deceased was, in character and conduct,—and what more in skill, dexterity and power he would have been, with their improved facilities and opportunities.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MODERN PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

JUST published by COTTONS & BAR-NARD, 184, Washington-St., a new and greatly improved edition of the MODERN PRACTICE OF PHYSIC, by JAS. THACKER, M.D. A.A.S. Author of the American New Dispensatory, and Observations on Hydrophobia. To this work is prefixed an interesting history of the rise and progress of Medical Science in the United States, detailing in the order of their respective organization, an account of the Medical Schools, with the names of the

Professors and number of students in each, together with the expenses and terms of admission and graduation in the several schools. In treating of the diseases in this work, the author has consulted those European authorities which are considered of the highest standing at the present day; as Good, Parr, Thomas, Armstrong, &c. But, as relates to the epidemic and other diseases peculiar to our own country, precedence has been given to American authors, as the most correct and sure guides to American practitioners. The author expresses a confident hope that this work will be found to comprise a mass of practical knowledge that will meet the approbation of the profession, and prove particularly useful to the young practitioner.

Boston, Nov. 1826.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

THE Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College, will commence on Tuesday, the 20th day of February, 1827.

Theory and Practice of Physic by DANIEL OLIVER, M. D. Professor of the same department at Hanover, N. H.

Anatomy and Surgery by J. D. WELLS, M. D.

Midwifery by J. M'KEAN, M. D.

Chemistry and Materia Medica by P. CLEAVELAND, M. D.

The *Anatomical Cabinet* is very valuable and extensive.

The *Library* is one of the best Medical Libraries in New England; and is every year enriched by new works, both foreign and domestic.

Every person becoming a member of this Institution, is required to present satisfactory evidence, that he possesses a good moral character.

Citizens of Maine in indigent circumstances may have *surgical operations* performed, free of expense, if brought into the vicinity of the College during the Course.—As a reduction in the price of boarding is an object of importance to many, arrangements have been made, which, it is hoped, may effect this object to a considerable extent.

Brunswick, September 26, 1826.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.
THE Trustees have the satisfaction to announce that the Honorable the

Regents of the University have filled the vacant Professorships in this Institution, and that the College will be opened on the first Monday of November next, by an Address from the President. The respective courses of Lectures in the following order, viz.

JOHN AUGUSTINE SMITH, M. D. on *Anatomy and Physiology*.

ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D. on *the Principles and Practice of Surgery*.

JAMES F. DANA, M. D. on *Chemistry*.

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D. on *the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine*.

EDWARD DELAFIELD, M. D. on *Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children*.

JOHN B. BECK, M. D. on *Materia Medica and Botany*.

The Trustees are assured that the several courses of instruction will be full and complete, and that the means of illustration will be ample.

The students who have already attended Lectures in this Institution, are notified that the changes which have taken place in the College will not deprive them of any privileges or facilities heretofore enjoyed.

In conformity with the ordinances of the Honorable the Regents, of the University, and the Laws of the State of New-York, every Student is required to attend two full courses of all the Lectures delivered in the College, before he can be admitted as a candidate for the Doctorate; unless said Student shall have attended Lectures in this College prior to the Session of 1822-3, or shall have attended one entire course of Lectures delivered in some incorporated Medical School or University.

The candidate must also have studied three years with some respectable practitioner of Medicine, and have arrived at the age of 21 years.

In announcing the new organization of the College and its first session in November next, the Board of Trustees believe that the high expectations of the Profession and the Public will be fully realized, and sustained by the distinguished reputation and talents of the several Gentlemen who have been appointed to fill the respective professorships.

By order of the Board of Trustees,
JOHN WATTS, Jr. M. D., Pres.
NICOLL H. DERING, M. D., Regist.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St., to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid).—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, in no case, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$ 1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1826.

NO. 26.

THE VAPOR BATH.

Believing that many persons in Boston and the vicinity, are suffering from a variety of complaints, for which this bath would prove a pleasant and safe remedy, we are happy in being able to offer some evidence of the correctness of this opinion; and first in Erysipelas.

E. R. had been exceedingly afflicted with Erysipelas for thirtyfive years. The disease generally made its appearance three or four times a year;—always in the severest part of summer and of winter, and at these times very violently; so that he was confined to the house, and sometimes to the bed from a month to six weeks. It was generally confined to the face and hands, but not unfrequently extended itself over the whole surface of the skin. It usually assumed the form of pustular erysipelas,—was accompanied with an almost insupportable itching, and much pain. Perhaps no human being ever was a greater martyr to this disease. During three and four months of every year he was in constant suffering,—and sometimes sick, more or less, all the year. Every re-

medy had been employed, under the direction of our most skilful physicians, in vain,—and at last he concluded to submit to it as an unavoidable, incurable evil, with as much patience as possible. About six years since, while laboring under a violent attack of inflammation, he, at the request of a friend, applied Goulard's extract to the face, which in about half an hour occasioned a complete translation of the disease from the skin to the internal organs. He instantaneously became deadly pale, had a very violent and universal rigor, which continued half an hour; at the expiration of this time the pulse was scarcely perceptible, and we thought he was dying;—he, however, recovered under the remedies employed, but never afterward enjoyed his usual health. He was costive, dyspeptic and languid. The erysipelatous affection never made its appearance perfectly as before; but at the seasons in which it formerly did, he was a very sick man. I have seen him at such times for a month and six weeks, suffering from acute,

severe pains in the stomach and bowels,* shooting to the back, and this suffering without the slightest intermission, night or day; the power of the stomach entirely suspended during the whole time, so that a teacupful of beeftea, during the day, occasioned violent distress:—the erysipelatous inflammation sometimes appeared partially about the face, but more frequently there was no appearance of it at all. The duration of these severe sufferings was about as long as the attacks of erysipelas usually had been—from four to six weeks, when they gradually left him in pretty good health, during an interval of two or three months;—his appetite and digestion tolerable, bowels regular, and strength moderately good, but never quite so well as he formerly was, when not laboring under his constitutional disease.

Things went on in this way six years, each attack seeming more and more violent. I considered it erythematous or erysipelatous inflammation of the mucous membrane of the bowels and stomach, accompanied with diseased liver, all being the consequence of retrocession of the disease of the skin; and as it seemed to be daily growing worse and worse un-

der all medical treatment, and as the vapor bath appeared to be an appropriate remedy, I recommended it. At the time he used it, he had a violent erysipelas about the face, of the pustular kind, and was suffering exceedingly with itching pain of the face, and the internal disorder. The effects of the bath were singularly beneficial. A few hours after he came out, the scabs on the face dropped off, the itching was entirely relieved, the internal pains subsided, and in the course of the night, a mild erysipelatous inflammation came out over the surface of the body, unaccompanied with the itching usually attendant on the disease. He used the bath twice more in the week, and no more. He has never been troubled with the internal symptoms since, and has grown fat and healthy. It may be well to add, that after the third application of the bath a great number of large painful biles broke out on his body.

Another fact of importance in this case is, that he has since been very little troubled with his St. Anthony. It has appeared *very mildly* twice only, I believe, and lasted but a few days. The vapor bath on one of these occasions relieved it entirely. The other attacks have been so mild, that he has not thought it worth his while to use the bath.

* Pains as violent as are occasioned by the passage of a gallstone through the gallducts.

I have since been in the habit of recommending all my patients, laboring under erysipelas, to use the vapor bath, and so far as I know, it has been uniformly successful.

Boston, Nov. 1826.

As we shall have occasion to avail ourselves of the work of Dr. Gibney, in order to diffuse a knowledge of steambathing, we shall now introduce the author and his book to the public, by giving the title, preface, and introduction of his treatise, that his principles and conclusions, which are of great value in the use of this remedy, may thus be the better understood, and more justly estimated.

A Treatise on the Properties and Medical Application of the Vapor Bath, in its different Varieties, and their Effects, in various Species of diseased Action. By J. GIBNEY, M. D. of the University of Edin.; resident Physician at Brighton, and senior Physician to the Sussex co. Hosp., and General Seabathing Infirmary.

Preface.—An inquiry respecting the use and influence of different baths, in disease, having occupied my attention for some years past, I am induced to publish the result of my experience on the nature and effects of the VAPOR BATH, as a continuation of my Observations on Baths in general, which have been for some time before the public.

At the period of their publication, want of experience prevented me from entering on the present part of the subject with so much satisfactory information as has been since afforded me by a residence at Brighton, during many years, and at the time when the use of the Vapor Bath has considerably increased in general estimation.

A daily inspection of its powers and its influence on the variety of diseases that present themselves in so populous a seabathing place, has confirmed me in the conviction of the advantages arising from it; and, in most instances, of its superiority over the usual mode of bathing. From this experience, I am of opinion, that it should be considered, in most circumstances, as a much more powerful agent than the common fluid bath, under any degree of heat; and hence, to obviate the abuses which but too commonly arise from temerity or inexperience, more prudence and circumspection will be required in its administration; and, like all other means of an active character, used for the removal of disease, respecting which there may be a doubt or difficulty, whatever facts we possess should be made as generally known as possible.

With this design principally in view, the following compi-

lation of facts and observations has been selected and arranged, with some degree of reflection on the subject, and with solicitude to render it better understood than it has yet been by practitioners in this country. Many of these particular observations and circumstances, valuable in themselves, have been made public, in works of a more enlarged character; but so partially interspersed with other matter, and so little in detail, as to afford a very imperfect and inadequate view of a practice which should be looked on as of very general consideration and utility, requiring a certain degree of systematic arrangement with reference to its physical and chemical properties.

In order that these particular properties and the nature of vapor may be more clearly and distinctly understood, the practical result of whatever information I could derive from others, as well as from my own personal experience, has been brought to bear on the subject, with as little obscurity as was within my power.

Abuses of the most pernicious kind arose from the too frequent and constant use of heated air amongst the Romans, either to diminish the inconvenience or distress of an overloaded stomach, or to promote an appetite for food in

an unnecessary degree. Pliny inveighed with earnestness against the medical practitioners of the day, who could suffer so unjustifiable a practice for the selfish and despicable gratification of the appetite, so often exercised by those whose moments were devoted to gross sensuality and the luxuries of the table; and Seneca, beholding this luxurious practice increase considerably during his time, is still more indignant against the abuses arising from too frequent an exposure to heated air, which enervates and exhausts the strength of the body. But the importance of baths was of such moment among these people, and wherever their conquests extended, that for many centuries they were an object of the constant care and attention of the government; yet, from their general and extensive use, abuses were inevitable, so as to injure the character of a practice at once salubrious and grateful, and often productive of health and vigor.

It may be truly remarked, that where any remedy of such import is administered indiscriminately and incautiously, it becomes more than difficult to bring it under any degree of regularity; but when this is in part effected, a promise of further progress soon follows, and we become more satisfied at each step that leads us to

steady principles and just conclusions. JOHN GIBNEY.

Brighton, July, 1825.

*On the Vapor Bath, Friction,
Shampooing, &c.*

Introduction—Vapor Bath less used formerly—not chemically or scientifically understood, &c.— To trace the causes that have hitherto operated against the practice of bathing in general, under its different forms and modifications, and to ascertain why the use of the VAPOR BATH has not been more known among us, would be an inquiry attended with less utility than difficulty.

The prevailing use of baths, as a means of relief in disease, or as a salutary or luxurious custom, existed in former times much less among us as a people than at present; and more particularly as to the knowledge and application of the steam or Vapor Bath, which, till of late years, was more known as a remedy than scientifically or chemically understood; but, as the proofs of its efficacy, both here and on the Continent, are becoming more numerous, the natural result must be, that the practice will extend in a ratio equal to its utility.

Among different nations, the medical application of Vapor varies according to habit and casual circumstances;—in many places, the steam or vapor

being naturally produced, while in others, this must be effected by artificial means.

The administration of Vapor, in disease, may be traced to the days of Hippocrates; and was efficaciously used by Celsus, Galen, and many of the Arabian Physicians; but, to the inhabitants of the East, to the Egyptians, the Greeks, and the Romans, its active application, both topically and generally, has been extensively known;—but more known than understood, from the earliest records to the present day.

In the burning regions of the East, and in the frozen and extended countries of Russia, Finland, Sweden, &c., the practice has become as general, as is the estimation in which it is universally held; probably arising from the existence of sensations and diseases peculiar to regions remarkable for the extremes of heat and cold; added to this, the constant habits of a people occupying these districts is such, that existence becomes painful without the comfort of the bath under one form or another; indeed, to such a degree, that a strict preclusion from its use is exercised and considered as a punishment of considerable severity. Should any instance of this nature occur, among the Egyptian women, from an interdiction by

the husband or otherwise, it would be considered of so cruel a nature, as to cause general disapprobation; for they not only enjoy the greatest delight from the salutary luxury of the bath, but when they assemble at the adjoining apartments, converse with the greatest animation on subjects of every agreeable description.

In the colder districts, apartments, heated to a very high temperature, are used as baths, and after the necessary time of exposure, the bathers are habituated to rush into cold and frosty air; nay, numbers from a high degree of heated medium, plunge into cold water contained in a pond convenient to the bath, or in winter roll themselves in snow, which, from force of habit, is found productive of no bad consequence, even though the change from heat to cold, and from cold to heat, is often reiterated; on the contrary, the removal of disease is frequently known to succeed; and, it is worthy of remark, that this custom is found among most uncultivated nations, from the experience of its utility.

In these countries, and in Lapland, the same mode of bathing, as well as of producing Vapor, maintains, as in Japan;—from heated flints the apartment is raised to a high temperature, and by this means, in Iceland, their dry

and sweating rooms are raised as high as 115 degrees of Fahrenheit. The bathers enter, and to open the pores, and promote a more free respiration, the surface of the body is gently struck with twigs, formed sometimes from one shrub, sometimes from another; this produces both a pleasing and useful effect, and is succeeded by feelings of grateful relaxation and refreshment.

In his travels in Russia, Cox describes the Russian bath as “containing one room provided with ranges of broad benches, placed like steps one above the other, almost to the height of the ceiling.—Within were about twenty persons undressed; some were lying on benches, some were sitting, others standing; some were washing their bodies with soap, others rubbing themselves with small branches of oakleaves tied together like a rod; some were pouring hot water on their heads, others cold water; a few, almost exhausted by the heat, were standing in the open air, or repeatedly plunging into the Volkof.”

In another account, he says, “Having taken off my clothes, I laid myself down on the highest bench, while the attendant was preparing tubs of hot and cold water, and continued to increase the vapor by pouring hot water on heated stones. Having dipped a

bunch of twigs into the hot water, he repeatedly sprinkled and rubbed with it my whole body. In about half an hour I removed to the lower bench, which I found much cooler; when the attendant lathered me from head to foot with soap, scrubbed me with flannel for the space of ten minutes, and throwing several buckets of warm water over me, till the soap was entirely washed off, he finally dried me with napkins.

"As I put on my clothes in a room without a fire, I had an opportunity of remarking that the cold air had little effect on my body, though in so heated a state; for, while I was dressing, I felt a glow of warmth which continued during the whole night. This circumstance convinced me, that when the natives rush from the Vapor Baths into the river, or even roll in the snow, their sensations are in no respect disagreeable, nor the effect in any degree unwholesome."

OF DRINKS.

Continued from page 215.

SAGE TEA. The virtues of sage have been so extravagantly praised that, like many of our remedies* the plant has fallen into disuse from the disgust which its panegyrist have excited. I am convinced, however, that in the form of infusion it possesses some power in allaying the ir-

ritability of the stomach,* and that, on many occasions, it will furnish a salutary beverage. The same observation will apply to *balm tea*.

TEA. There is no subject which has occasioned a greater controversy amongst dietetic writers than the subject of tea. By one party it is described as a poison; by another it is extolled as a medicine, and a valuable addition to our food; while some refer all its beneficial effects to the water thus introduced into the system, and its evil consequences to the high temperature at which it is drank. In order to understand the value of the different arguments which have been adduced in support, or to the disparagement, of this beverage, it will be necessary to inquire into its composition. Two kinds of tea are imported into this country, distinguished by the epithets *black* and *green*. Both contain astringent and narcotic principles, but in very different proportions; the latter producing by far the most powerful influence on the nervous system. As the primary operation of every narcotic is stimulant, tea is found to exhilarate and refresh us, though there exist individuals who are so morbidly sensible to the action of certain bodies of this class, that feelings of depression, accompanied with various nervous sensations, and an unnatural vigilance, follow the potation of a single cup of strong tea; while others experience, from the same cause, symptoms indicative of derangement of the digestive organs: but these are exceptions from which no general rule ought to be deduced. The salubrity of the infusion to the general mass of the community is established by sufficient testimony to outweigh any argument founded on individual cases. It must, however, be admitted, that if this beverage be taken too soon after dinner, the digestion of the meal may be disturb-

* It is frequently used by the Chinese as a tonic for debility of the stomach.

ed by the distension it will occasion, as well as by its influence as a diluent; the narcotic and astringent principles may also operate in arresting chymification; but when a physician gives it his sanction, it is with the understanding that it shall be taken in moderate quantities, and at appointed seasons. When drank four hours after the principal meal, it will assist the ulterior stages of digestion, and promote the insensible perspiration; while it will afford to the stomach a grateful stimulus after its labors. With regard to the objection urged against its use, on the ground of temperature, it will be only necessary to refer to the observations which have been already offered on this subject. In enumerating, however, the advantages of tea, it must not be forgotten that it has introduced and cherished a spirit of sobriety; and it must have been remarked by every physician of general practice, that those persons who dislike tea, frequently supply its place by spirit and water. The addition of milk certainly diminishes the astringency of tea; that of sugar may please the palate, but cannot modify the virtues of the infusion.

COFFEE. The hostility which has been manifested against the use of tea, has been extended, with equal rancor, against that of coffee; and, probably, with equal injustice. The principle on which its qualities depend is more stimulant than that of tea, and certainly exerts a different species of action on the nervous system, though it is very difficult to define the nature of this difference. If taken immediately after a meal, it is not found to create that disturbance in its digestion which has been noticed as the occasional consequence of tea; on the contrary, it accelerates the operations of the stomach, and will frequently enable the dyspeptic to digest substances, such as fat and oily aliment, which would otherwise occasion much disturbance. The custom of taking coffee immediately

after dinner, as so universally practised by the French, no doubt must counteract the evil effects which the peculiar form of their diet is calculated to produce. Coffee, like tea, has certainly an antisoporific effect on many individuals; it imparts an activity to the mind which is incompatible with sleep: but this will rarely occur if the beverage be taken for several hours before our accustomed period of repose. It seems to be generally admitted, that it possesses the power of counteracting the effects of narcotics; and hence it is used by the Turks with much advantage, in abating the influence of the inordinate quantities of opium they are accustomed to swallow. Where our object is to administer it as a promoter of digestion, it should be carefully made by infusion; decoction dissipates its aroma. The addition of milk is one of questionable propriety; that of sugar, or rather sugarcandy, may be allowed.* I have known some persons who have never taken this beverage without suffering from acidity in the stomach: where this happens, the practice must be abandoned.

CHOCOLATE. In consequence of the large quantity of nutritive matter which this liquid contains, it should be regarded rather as food than drink. It is prepared by reducing the cocoa nut into paste, with sugar, milk, or eggs: it is also frequently mixed with different aromatics, the

* Coffee has been often imitated by the torrefaction of various grains. In the "Fourth Century of Observations" in the "Miscellanea Curiosa" we find a critical dissertation on the coffee of the Arabians, and on European coffee, or such as may be prepared from grain or pulse. Dillenius gives an account of his own preparations made with peas, beans, and kidney-beans; but says, that made of rye comes nearest to true coffee, and was with difficulty distinguished from it. This fact is curious, inasmuch as a spurious coffee has been lately vended, which is nothing more than roasted rye. The article is well known, under the name of "HUNT'S ECONOMICAL BREAKFAST POWDER."

most common of which is the *vanilla*, a substance very liable to disagree with the stomach, and to produce a train of nervous symptoms. As a common beverage, chocolate is highly objectionable; it contains an oil which is difficult of assimilation; it therefore oppresses the stomach; this effect is of course increased by the application of too much heat in its preparation. Another objection against its use is to be found in the observations which I have already offered on the subject of too great concentration.

COCOA is usually considered as a substitute for chocolate. As it contains less nutritive matter, it is not so objectionable; and, as the oily matter exists only in small quantities, it is less likely to disagree with the stomach.

WHEY is a delightful beverage; but as its nature and operation cannot be well understood till the composition of milk is investigated, the observations which I have to offer on its use will be deferred till the history of this fluid has been examined.

The nature of weak broths, and the manner in which they are decomposed in the digestive organs, have been already considered.

There are certain saline solutions which are frequently employed as drinks, and deserve some attention in this place: such as *imperial* and *soda water*.

IMPERIAL. This is a solution of cream of tartar flavored with lemon-peel. It ought never to be used except as a medicine. If employed as an ordinary drink, it is apt to retard digestion. If ever useful as an article of diet, it will be under circumstances of robust health, and where a large quantity of animal food has been taken.

SODA WATER. The modern custom of drinking this inviting beverage during, or immediately after dinner, has been a pregnant source of dyspepsia. By inflating the stomach

at such a period, we inevitably counteract those muscular contractions of its coats which are essential to chymification. The quantity of soda thus introduced scarcely deserves notice: with the exception of the carbonic acid gas,* it may be regarded as water, more mischievous only in consequence of the exhilarating quality inducing us to take it at a period at which we should not require the more simple fluid.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE DEPARTURE.

—“Thou shalt lie down
With patriarchs of the infant world—with kings,
The powerful of the earth—the wise, the good,
Fair forms, and hoary seers of ages past,
All in one mighty sepulchre.” **BRYANT.**

AND shrink ye from the way
To the spirits’ distant shore?
Earth’s mightiest men, in arm’d array,
Are thither gone before.

The warrior kings, whose banner
Flew far as eagles fly,
They are gone where swords avail them
not,
From the feast of victory.

And the seers, who sat of yore,
By orient palm or wave,
They have pass’d with all their starry
love—
Can ye still fear the grave?

“We fear, we fear!—the sunshine
Is joyous to behold;
And we reck not of the buried kings,
Or the awful seers of old.”—

Ye shrink!—the bards whose lays
Have made your deep hearts burn,
They have left the Sun, and the voice of
praise,
For the land whence none return:

And the lovely, whose memorial
Is the verse that cannot die,
They too are gone with their glorious bloom,
From the gaze of human eye.

* Late discoveries have shown, that the carbonic acid exists in a liquid state in soda water; when, therefore, it is hastily swallowed, it robs the stomach of a certain portion of heat, as it passes from a liquid into a gaseous state. It therefore cools as well as distends this organ.

Would ye not join that glorious throng
Of the earth's departed flowers,
And the masters of the mighty song
In their far and fadeless bowers?

" Those songs are high and holy,
But they vanquish not our fear;
Not from our path those flowers are gone—
We fain would linger here."

Linger then yet awhile,
As the last leaves on the bough!
Ye have loved the gleam of many a smile,
Which is taken from you now.

There have been sweet singing voices
In your walks that now are still;
There are seats left void in your earthly
homes,
Which none again may fill.

Soft eyes are seen no more
That made springtime in your heart;
Kindred and friends are gone before,—
And ye still fear to part?

" We fear not now! we fear not now!
Though the way through darkness
bends,
Our souls are strong to follow them,
Our own familiar friends!"

New Monthly Magazine.

BARK OF THE AMPELOPSIS IN CATARRHAL CONSUMPTION.

Extract of a letter addressed to one of the Editors by Dr. Dudly Atkins, of Kingston, Pa. " Since I came to this part of the country, I have become acquainted with the medicinal properties of a plant, which I find an invaluable remedy. I refer to the Ampelopsis, the Vitis and Hedera of some authors, the common creeper which covers the walls of many old buildings in Philadelphia and its environs, growing also on trees, &c. When I came to Kingston, I found this plant, under the name of consumption vine, enjoying a high and universal reputation as a remedy for consumption. I have heard of more than a dozen well attested cases of its curing people who were on the borders of the grave, and who had been given up by the best practitioners in the country, as incurable. But these were not, so well as I can ascertain, cases of genuine consump-

tion, that is, of ulceration in the lungs. I have tried the remedy in a dozen cases, of various forms of pulmonary disease. I find it of little benefit in cases where the lungs are ulcerated, as ascertained by the stethoscope, or by other modes of information. But in cases of chronic catarrh, of chronic purulent discharges from the bronchial membrane, even when attended by hectic, &c. I have found it invaluable. In these forms of disease, it is almost specific.

" It appears to operate on the pharynx, larynx, and whole lining mucous membrane of the lungs, more immediately and directly than any medicine of the class of expectorants I know of, or have used.

" The mode of preparation is, to take the trunks and branches of the vine, to scrape or peel off the rough external bark or cuticle, and then to separate from the wood, the thick internal bark or cutis, a small handful of which is to be infused in a pint of hot water, and from a pint to a quart to be drank in the day. This infusion forms a mild mucilage, which, on being tasted and drank, will be found to produce a sensation of roughness, and a tickling over the whole fauces, that irresistibly produces secretion from the mucous and other glands.

" As the remedy is so simple, so cheap, and yet so effectual, I wish it may become generally known."

Phil. Med. & Surg. Jour. Oct. 1826.

ON THE TRAFFIC WITH LEECHES.

The increased demand for leeches during the last 20 years, and the scarcity of them in France, America, and particularly in England, compared with the abundance of these creatures in Germany, Silesia, and Poland, has gradually given rise to a trade in these animals, which is much greater than one would at first sight be inclined to believe. How profitable this trade must be, may be learned from this fact; that Apothecaries in Paris and London find it to

their advantage to send men from these towns to procure or cause to be procured these animals for their use, and to convey them to these capitals. This, however, is less remarkable when we consider that in the year 1819, the expense for leeches alone in the Parisian hospitals was £4,800 sterling. In the year 1823 it was nearly 7000 guineas. According to Sarlandiere the yearly sum paid for these animals, for the hospitals in France, is upwards of *one million and a half of francs*, or in English money £60,000! Not less than *seven million two hundred thousand of these animals* are annually sent to England. The merchants buy them in summer for 12 rix dollars, 36 shillings, a thousand; in winter they pay from 30 to 45 dollars; a price which they can very well afford to give, for according to Boehr's statement, a shilling or eighteen pence will be sometimes paid a piece in the shops in London.

The mode by which the leech merchants transport these animals is different. Some make use of wooden vessels, which have been carefully cleaned with boiling water, and which must have contained neither salt, nor tobacco, nor the like. In this vessel from 2 to 3000 are placed without water. In 36 hours afterwards, and just before they are to be put into the wagon, one fourth part of the vessel is filled with water.

As the young animals attack the old, care is taken by the merchants not to put these two together. When the journey is not above eight days, the animals in general live, but if the period of their transportation exceeds this, the greater part of them die. The mortality is still greater when the weather is warm, or there has been thunder.

Another set of people, particularly the French merchants, transport these animals in a linen bag, which has been well washed, without soap, however, and in order to avoid the bad consequences of shaking during the transportation, they carry them.

When thunder comes on they thrust bag and leeches into any marsh they find on the way, but not in a running stream. When the place is at no great distance, they put into one bag as many as it can hold. The better way seems, however, to be that we have already adverted to, transporting them in small numbers in bags.

The great object of the above statement respecting the quantities of leeches used, is to show the probable danger there exists of the supplies of these animals being soon exhausted, and to propose measures to be taken to prevent such a dreadful event. The alarm, however, is unfounded; and if it were not, the plan proposed of bringing them all together in one large marsh, or in places constructed for them, would be much more likely to create a dearth of these animals sooner than double the present consumption.

Hufeland's Journal.

From the American Medical Review.

Marlborough, Pa. July 10.

CASE OF A HORNED WOMAN.

Dear Sir—I take the liberty to forward for your perusal the following case of a Horned Woman, hoping that, from its very rare occurrence, it may not prove unacceptable. The account may be relied on, as many others, besides myself, have seen her, and as she resides but five miles from this place.

Mrs. B——, aged about 70 years, the wife of a farmer of Bucks County, of a robust constitution, was affected, four years ago, with a very troublesome itching over the centre of the parietal bone of the left side. In a short time she perceived a hard tumor of a horny structure occupying the place thus affected, which continued to increase, so that by the end of twelve months it had attained the length of one inch. Without any considerable pain, it has progressed in its growth, an inch every year, and is at present, 4 inches in length, and thick as one's little finger.

It is not attached to the bone, but is evidently an affection of the cuticle; commencing with a granular hour glass shaped tumor of threeeighths of an inch in length, from which the horn abruptly rises. After growing straight for one inch and three quarters, it takes a spiral direction, and has completed nearly a circular turn and a half horizontally, of about the diameter of a cent. In appearance it so closely resembles the horn of a ram, that were it placed near a real sheep's horn, it would be difficult to distinguish between them. It is of the same color, a dingy yellow; it is perfectly hard and has all the rings natural to a horn of this animal, tapering also, as it does, to the end. As it occasions no pain, except when a blow compresses its fleshy base between the horn and the bone; as it is perfectly concealed by her head dress, and on account of what is of far more moment, with her, a superstitious belief, that it is a judgment from above, for some of her manifold sins, she resists all persuasion to have it removed.

With sentiments of gratitude, I am yours, &c. GEORGE R. MORTON.

Dr. B. Rush Rhees.

A NEW WORK.

Towar and Hogan, of Philadelphia, have just published the first volume of "Dr Gregory's Elements of the Theory and Practice of Physic, with Notes and Additions; adapted to the Practice of the United States, by Nathaniel Potter, M. D., Prof. of the Practice of Physic in the University of Maryland, and S. Colhoun, M. D., of Philadelphia, in two octavo volumes."

The publishers add, "in the opinion of those who have examined the work, it is superior to Thomas's in the clearness of its views, and the principles of the science, and is free from the nosological details which obscure the merit of Good's work, and that the extensive additions of the editors will render it a very val-

uable manual for American practitioners."

PETTY AVARICE.

From a strange inconsistency in the human mind, it sometimes happens that men who are generous and bountiful on great occasions, disgrace and distress themselves by a parsimony in trifles which are beneath their care. The character of such a petty miser has always afforded a topic for raillery and derision, but, perhaps it ought rather to be viewed with pity, as it appears to be a species of insanity.

PRUSSIAN STATISTICS.

The following rather curious details are found in the Annals of M. Campy, for 1817. Pomerania ranks first as to morality, and there, out of 4,760 persons, there is only one criminal. In the towns of Dusseldorf, Cologne, Aix-la-Chapelle, and the country round Munster, there was, on the contrary, one criminal in 400. For 6,432 persons in Pomerania, there was only one thief, and only one for 3,000 persons in Eastern Prussia and Silesia; while in Treves and Coblenz, there was one for 800. Where there are most holidays there are most robberies; but other crimes are not so frequent.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, NOV. 14, 1826.

We have recently been much gratified in attending a meeting of gentlemen assembled from the several religious societies in this city, in order to consider what means could be devised to lessen the prevalence of intemperance. A very animating zeal and engagedness pervaded the meeting, without any of that confidence of success which can anticipate a sudden and general change of the habits of the community. It ap-

peared, however, that something, that much indeed could be done, and ought to be speedily attempted, to diminish this overwhelming and prostrating evil. We were encouraged and refreshed by the good spirit and intelligence which were shown on this occasion, because they obviously tended to confirm what we have for some time supposed to be true, that something might be done with a good prospect of success. Whenever the enlightened and temperate portion of society shall be duly penetrated with the importance of doing what can be accomplished in this matter, and every discreet and practicable means of suppressing the intemperate use of ardent spirit, shall be steadily and perseveringly put in operation, the effects must be extensive and highly beneficial. Let us begin, then, with ourselves individually. Let every member of society who uses spirit at all, put this question to themselves, distinctly and individually: Is the quantity of rum, brandy, gin, or anything else as bad, which I allow myself to drink, of any service to my health,—is it really medicinal and necessary? If this question cannot be answered affirmatively, and the affirmation sustained before an impartial and competent tribunal, let the practice be abandoned. Having thus taken for ourselves the course which reason and conscience shall approve, as the first step in the momentous reformation to be brought about, let us next extend our care and watchfulness to those who are placed nearest to us, our families.—Let no child, wife or husband be made the worse by our example, or

by a direct assistance and invitation, taught to love spirit of any kind.

Having thus established the proper system to be observed at home, we are next to extend our views to society, and here we are not to do anything which shall lessen, or counteract the good effects of our personal and family rules of conduct; we must decline to drink spirit when invited to do so abroad, and cease to offer it to our guests when at home, unless specifically and clearly as a medicine.

Having done this for ourselves and our acquaintance, the question now presents itself, what can be done for the public, the great multitude of transgressors? Here we must remove, as far as possible, every facility to intoxication. Here we need, and will hope for, the cooperation of the legislator and civil magistrate,—but we ought not, we will not wait for this. We can set up, if we will, some discriminations in favor of what is right, and in discouragement of what is wrong. Let families, manufactoryes, towns, states, in the selection of their agents and servants, set their faces decidedly against the intemperate, and do something to honor, and hold up in reputable distinction, those who will consent to be temperate, and decent, and healthful. When has this attempt been firmly made in any single community, without having produced a manifest and decisive melioration? We have heard of several instances of success, and not of one failure where the trial has been made with sufficient unanimity among the influential and leading members of society.

and carried on with a mild and un-deviating perseverance.

There is a pleasurable sensation arising from the drinking of spirit, for which it is essential to provide some substitutes for distilled liquor. These may be smallbeer, coffee, tea, chocolate; various decoctions of our own aromatic and exhilarating plants; our own wines, for those who occasionally need wine, and whatever else can be brought into use, gratefully to raise the animal spirits, without leaving behind them any of the depressing and injurious consequences of rum, brandy, gin, whiskey, and the whole catalogue of inebriating, debasing, and demoralizing potations.

There is a great fallacy in the idea that spirit is requisite to give men sufficient strength and animation to enable them to work hard with impunity. The contrary is the truth. Who have lived the longest, performed the greatest amount of labor, muscular and mental? Water drinkers. Men of temperate, regular and sober habits. Ardent spirit does, indeed, in certain quantities, give an unnatural strength and activity; but as this is *unnatural* and excessive, it must of course be of short duration, and must end in a corresponding state of depression, sadness, exhaustion and derangement,—tending to disease and premature death. This is demonstrated by every day's observation.

Let us go on; let us continue to meet and confer till we can form a system of operations, and then separate, and go forth, every one in his way, and according to his ability, to execute the measures which have

been discussed and adopted, and are now ready, by precept and example, to be carried into effect.

VACCINATION.

The smallpox has been so long a stranger that people care very little about it. The neglect may one of these days be seriously repented of, for the disease is by no means exterminated, and in a few years there may be hundreds in this town exposed to it. There is now at the pest house a decided case of the smallpox. The medical gentlemen in this town are all of them, we believe, provided with vaccine matter. The expense of vaccination is very little, the sickness produced by it a trifle, and the evil to be prevented of very great consequence. The old saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, never had a better application, or a more perfect exemplification than in this very matter. Every head of a family should consider it a duty to see that all under his authority are guarded in this way against the smallpox, not merely on their own account, but for the general safety. It is a kindness which Providence seems to offer, and which like many other favors is but too little regarded.—*Hartford Mirror of November 6.*

This admonition is greatly needed in Boston where there is much apathy and a sense of false security on the subject of smallpox. By and by, if this negligence continues, we shall be all in consternation and confusion. In the hurry in which vaccination will then be pushed forward,—every one wishing to be vaccinated at the same time, many mistakes and failures will arise which the physicians will not have time to correct and supply. What will add to the disasters of this scene, whenever it occurs, will be the fact, that many per-

sons in this city have been vaccinated who have not taken the cowpock.

EXCHANGE OF PAPERS.

We should be happy to comply with the wish of every editor and proprietor of a respectable newspaper who is disposed to honor us with an exchange, if we could do it without considerable loss and inconvenience. If we were sufficiently *chemical* to extract an elixir of health, whether prophylactic or remedial, from shipnews, theatrical notices, advertisements,—local, temporary and worthless politics,—turning on anything rather than the principles and motives which should govern the people and their rulers; we say, if we were chemical enough to do all this, we would exchange at once. Papers may be very clever in their way, and wellsuited to answer the purpose for which they are intended, but quite useless to us. But it is said to be uncivil, impolitic and disobliging to refuse an offer for exchange. For this argument we have very little respect. This matter of exchange should be explained, and fairly understood to be a mere business arrangement, carried on between the parties concerned like other negociations, accepted or declined according to the free will and good pleasure of those who make and receive, accept or decline the proposition submitted. The proprietor of a periodical publication should be just as much at liberty to accept or decline a proposal for exchange, as to buy or not to buy a piece of cloth which is offered to him for a coat, without being chargeable with offensive conduct, or disrespect to anyone.

We have, for several weeks been indebted for a number of papers for which we have made no return, and we make this explanation because we are desirous that the views and motives which govern us should be understood and approved.

NEW METHOD OF ROASTING COFFEE.

Mr Clarke, of Apothecaries' Hall, has given us the following account of the process of roasting coffee by the new patent apparatus of Messrs Evans & Co. "The roasting still by which the process is effected is new in chemical science; and by it we have the power of subjecting any dry substance to the action of fire, without injuring those qualities we wish to preserve, and expelling other properties we wish to get rid of. A considerable quantity of acetic acid, which is injurious to the stomach, is formed during the process of roasting; this acid dissolves a large proportion of the iron vessel used for roasting the coffee, and destroys its most valuable qualities. By the new method the acid and other impurities are separated, and by a very ingenious contrivance the aroma and fine flavor of the coffee are preserved and the deleterious qualities are destroyed. The patent roasted coffee is not only rendered wholesome by the superior process, but will be found an agreeable and nutritious beverage. The patentee is entitled to universal patronage, as the discovery is most important to the public in general."

Boston Atheneum.

DICTIONARY.

We have so few *hard words* this week, that we shall defer an explanation of them till the next.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ATHENEUM :

OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.
FOR NOVEMBER 15,

JUST published by John Cotton, 184 Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St.

CONTENTS.—The Fatal Mistake—The Shadow—Weddings : by a Parish Clerk—The Sorcerer. From the German of Weber—The Animal Kingdom described and arranged, by Baron Cuvier, &c.—Time's Changes—The Mysterious Guests—Wit in Painting—My Godmothers—The Drama—Tales in Verse, Illustrative of the

several Petitions of the Lord's Prayer.
By the Rev. H. F. Lyte.

MEDICAL SCHOOL IN BOSTON.

THE LECTURES at the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL COLLEGE, in BOSTON, will commence on the third Wednesday in November.

Anat. and Surg. by DR WARREN.

Chemistry, by DR GORHAM.

Midwifery and Med. Jurisprud. by DR CHANNING.

Materia Medica, by DR BIGELOW.

Theory and Practice of Physic, by DR JACKSON.

The advantages for attending Hospital practice at this Institution, are considered equal to those afforded in any city of the United States.

TO PHYSICIANS.

IN preparation and will be published as soon as the necessary arrangements are completed.

The American Journal of Foreign Medicine, to consist of such selections from the periodical works on Medicine, published in Europe as are of *practical* utility.

The American Journal will be edited by an Association of Physicians in this city, and rejecting speculative discussions, will contain the spirit of such improvements made abroad in the Medical Sciences as are likely to be useful in *actual practice*. It is designed therefore exclusively for professional men.

A number, of not less than forty pages, on fine paper and in fair type will be issued every month. Price to subscribers four dollars per annum.

Instead of the enormous expense of subscribing for, and procuring the numerous Medical Journals of England, France, Switzerland, Germany, and Italy, a cheap and compendious method of learning their most valuable contents is here offered to the American Faculty; and those who wish to avail themselves of the work will forward their names before the 15th November inst. to HILLIARD, GRAY & CO.

N. B.—All communications must be *post paid*.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.
THE Trustees have the satisfaction to announce that the Honorable the

Regents of the University have filled the vacant Professorships in this Institution, and that the College will be opened on the first Monday of November next, by an Address from the President. The respective courses of Lectures in the following order, viz.

JOHN AUGUSTINE SMITH, M. D. on *Anatomy and Physiology*.

ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D. on *the Principles and Practice of Surgery*.

JAMES F. DANA, M. D. on *Chemistry*.

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D. on *the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine*.

EDWARD DELAFIELD, M. D. on *Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children*.

JOHN B. BECK, M. D. on *Materia Medica and Botany*.

The Trustees are assured that the several courses of instruction will be full and complete, and that the means of illustration will be ample.

The students who have already attended Lectures in this Institution, are notified that the changes which have taken place in the College will not deprive them of any privileges or facilities heretofore enjoyed.

In conformity with the ordinances of the Honorable the Regents of the University, and the Laws of the State of New-York, every Student is required to attend two full courses of all the Lectures delivered in the College, before he can be admitted as a candidate for the Doctorate; unless said Student shall have attended Lectures in this College prior to the Session of 1822-3, or shall have attended one entire course of Lectures delivered in some incorporated Medical School or University.

The candidate must also have studied three years with some respectable practitioner of Medicine, and have arrived at the age of 21 years.

In announcing the new organization of the College and its first session in November next, the Board of Trustees believe that the high expectations of the Profession and the Public will be fully realized, and sustained by the distinguished reputation and talents of the several Gentlemen who have been appointed to fill the respective professorships.

By order of the Board of Trustees,

JOHN WATTS, Jr. M. D., Pres.
NICOLL H. DERING, M. D., Regist.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St., to whom all communications must be addressed (*post-paid*).—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$ 1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1826.

NO. 27.

Dr. Clutterbuck's Lecture on Inflammation of the Substance of the Lungs.

When the substance of the lungs is attacked by inflammation, exclusive of the pleura, there is but little pain experienced, and not at all in proportion to the degree of the disease. There is commonly, however, more or less of pain felt, and which may be variously seated in the chest, according to the seat of the inflammation. Sometimes the pain shoots through from the front to the back, and is often felt under the shoulder blade; sometimes about the top of the shoulder or clavicle; and not unfrequently about the middle of the arm. These pains in the back, shoulder, and arm, are often mistaken for rheumatism, especially by the patient himself, so that you must be on your guard against this. Instead of pain, there is at times only a sense of weight or oppression complained of.

When you have not pain to guide you to the seat of disease, your judgment must be

formed chiefly from the state of the functions, that is, from the state of respiration principally, though other functions will be often disturbed also, as I shall presently mention.

Theory.—Now to understand this, you have only to recollect that inflammation, in so loose a texture as that of the lungs, must of necessity be attended with a swelling of the part inflamed. This will produce pressure on both the *bloodvessels* and *airvessels* of the part, and so doubly interfere with the process of respiration; for neither can air enter into the lungs at this part, nor can the blood pass with sufficient freedom through the minute branches of the pulmonary artery and vein in the inflamed part. If the inflammation be of small extent, no serious inconvenience may be experienced; because there is no material impediment to the function of respiration altogether; and the system may not suffer in consequence. But in proportion as the disease is extensive, so must be its importance in regard to the general health of the body, and

even to life itself. When the lungs become generally or extensively inflamed, as is sometimes the case, the symptoms are of the most alarming and dangerous kind ; for in addition to the common signs and effects of inflammation, namely, pain or uneasiness in the part, with a general febrile state of the system, there is an impediment or interruption of a function that is immediately essential to life, and which cannot be even partially interfered with, at least in any considerable degree, without great distress to the patient, and much injury to a variety of other functions. These, I shall now proceed to point out to you.

It is the *bronchial* artery—that vessel which is destined to nourish the lungs—and not the *pulmonary* artery, that is essentially the seat of the inflammation, the pulmonary artery being passive on the occasion. No doubt, the coats of this vessel, as of any other, may participate in the disease ; but this does not appear to be essential.

Symptoms.—The history I am now to give you must be considered as applying only to the more severe and extensive cases of inflammation of the lungs. The slighter affections of this sort, not interfering materially with the respiratory function, are, of course, marked by fewer and trivial char-

acters. The symptoms, then, of violent and dangerous inflammation in the lungs, are various, and follow in a certain order, one arising out of, and depending on, another. Now it is of importance that you should mark the series and dependence ; as, in practice, our chief attention should be directed to the *primary* symptoms, rather than the *secondary*, or still more remote ones ; because the removal of the latter has no necessary tendency to relieve the essential part of the disease, the inflammation, but rather the contrary. Thus if, as is often done, you were to give stimulants in order to relieve the general prostration of strength that takes place in the advanced stage of the disease, you would be likely to aggravate the inflammation, and that without a possibility of accomplishing the object you had in view.

1. *Pain in the Chest.*—The natural insensibility of the lungs renders pain an equivocal symptom, as I have already told you. When present, it bears in fact no necessary proportion to the degree of the disease present, the worst cases of pneumonia being those in which there is the least pain.—Your attention, therefore, should be chiefly directed to the state of functions, in order to form your judgment of the case.

2. *Difficult Respiration of a continued kind.*—The breathing is short and laborious, often with wheezing. This symptom is occasioned by the pressure made by the swelled portion of lung on the aircells and minute ramifications of the bronchia, impeding thus the admission of air into the lungs.

3. *A livid hue of the skin* in various parts, especially of the cheeks, lips, and nails. This arises from the blood not having undergone the necessary changes in the lungs, owing to the imperfect admission of the air in breathing. And as animal heat depends in a great measure on respiration, this being imperfectly performed, *coldness of the extremities* likewise takes place.

4. The same pressure which acts on the *airvessels*, influences also the *bloodvessels* of the lungs, namely, the minute branches of the *pulmonary artery* and veins. The blood in consequence is impeded in its passage from the right to the left side of the heart, which is thus deprived of its due and regular supply of blood. The pulse in consequence is generally small, soft, and feeble, and sometimes irregular.

5. The obstructed state of the pulmonary artery leads to a gorged state of the right side of the heart, which cannot sufficiently empty itself of its blood. It becomes in conse-

quence unable to receive the venous blood coming from different parts of the system; and thus a general stagnation of circulation takes place in a greater or less degree, and accounts for the tumid and bloated state of the face and extremities. The brain, from its proximity to the heart, is likely to suffer most from the impediment to the return of blood to the heart; and hence stupor, and not unfrequently delirium, ensue. Something may doubtless be ascribed here to the *dark or venous* character of the blood itself, by which it is less fitted to excite the brain, and other organs of the body, whence the general torpor and inaction observed.

In severe cases of peripneumony, the tongue assumes a brown hue, similar to what is observed in low fever; and this probably from the same cause, the oppressed condition of the brain. The thicker and darker the crust on the tongue is in these cases, the greater in general is the danger of the disease.

There is often no cough, because the mucous membrane is not always or generally affected. When cough does occur, however, there is not much expectoration at first, and the expectoration is often of a brown or sanguous appearance; sometimes it is bloody, but the blood is rather of a dark than a florid hue.

The history I have now given, you are to consider as an extreme case of the disease, and as it appears in its most simple and uncombined form. In most cases, it is a much milder disease than I have now stated, and is most frequently accompanied with more or less of inflammation of both the investing membrane, the pleura, and of the mucous membrane, or that which lines the *bronchia*.—Hence the pain, and cough, and expectoration, that so commonly are found in combination with the other symptoms.

Progress and Terminations.—The progress of inflammation of the lungs is according to the violence of the disease and the age of the patient. In infants, it often runs its course, and proves fatal in little more than eight and forty hours; and the same is the case in very old subjects.

Peripneumony terminates in various ways; as, 1st, by *resolution*, as it is called; that is, by simply subsiding, without even expectoration or other obvious change: 2d, More frequently it terminates in coughing and expectoration. The more early this takes place, and the more copious and easy the discharge of mucus becomes, the more likely is the disease to terminate favorably.

3d, by *abscess*, commonly though needlessly termed *v-*

mica. The approach of this may be suspected from the continuance of the oppressed state of breathing, after the pain and febrile symptoms have declined. Occasional shivering fits, also, indicate approaching suppuration. The abscess commonly bursts into the bronchia, when the *matter* is brought up by coughing. Sometimes, though rarely, it penetrates through the pleura, into the cavity of the chest, and then constitutes what is called *empyema*, that is, a collection of purulent fluid in the thorax. In many instances, the lungs adhering to the ribs, the matter makes its way between these, and is discharged at the skin, often very remote from the opening into the chest. Patients occasionally recover under all these circumstances, though slowly, and after a long period.

4th, by *hemoptysis*.—This occurring early in the disease, tends powerfully to take off the inflammation, though, in itself, it is not unattended with danger.

5th, by deposition of blood or serum, or both, into the cellular texture of the lungs, and that to such a degree as to occasion suffocation. When the disease proves fatal in this way, the lungs, on being cut into after death, resemble the liver in color; and hence have been said to be *hepatized*. This

is a very unwarrantable use of language, as it tends to excite ideas that are without foundation. Modern writers have a great deal of this sort to answer for.

6th, by apoplexy.—The impediment given to the return of blood from the head, and which is evident in the bloated state of the face, the red, and starting, and suffused appearance of the eyes, and the turgid state of the jugular veins, not only induces stupor, the effect of mere stagnation, but becomes also, in some cases, a cause of irritation to the arteries of the brain, urging them to an increase of propulsive action, and consequent rupture and extravasation of blood.

Prognosis.—The chief danger in peripneumony, arises from the impeded respiration, and the interruption given to the passage of the blood through the lungs. The unfavorable symptoms are, the livid hue of the skin, with coldness of the extreme parts; a feeble and irregular pulse; and the occurrence of stupor or delirium. A thickly coated brown and dry tongue, also indicates danger.

Treatment.—The common remedies for inflammation are all that are required in this case. *Bloodletting*, commenced at an early stage of the disease, is particularly necessary,

and this often to a great extent, the patient in many cases requiring to be bled, once, or oftener, daily, according to the severity of the symptoms, for many days in succession, till either the disease gives way, or the strength will no longer allow of this evacuation. Of this, you are to judge chiefly by the pulse. In proportion as this declines in strength and fulness, you are to be cautious in abstracting blood. You must be aware, however, that the pulse in this disease is not wholly or exclusively to be trusted to; for, owing to the blood retaining its venous character, and thereby not stimulating the heart and arteries sufficiently; and partly, also, to the imperfect transmission of the blood through the pulmonary artery; the pulse at the wrist may be weak and small, though the general strength be still unimpaired. In such cases, you must judge of the general strength from other circumstances; such as the duration of the disease, the quantity of blood already lost, and the state of the patient immediately previous to the attack.

In the advanced stage of the disease, when the skin is livid, the extremities cold, pulse feeble and irregular, and the tongue of a dark brown color, *bloodletting* is hardly admissible, though we may be convinced the inflammation is still

going on. Bleeding then, to any amount, will but hasten the fatal event. In these cases, it is usual to give stimulants, as *ammonia*, the *seneka*, and *wine*: as if, because *bloodletting* was no longer admissible, an opposite treatment were required. It is difficult, however, to reconcile this with either reason or experience. The reason commonly assigned for employing *stimulants* on such occasions, namely, "to support the strength," is quite fallacious; for no medicine has any such power. All that stimulants can do, is to excite vascular action: but this effect is of short duration, and not favorable, one would suppose, to the real disease, the inflammation. When the unfavorable symptoms I have just described, have made their appearance, little, probably, can be done by art for their relief. The insufficiency of our means, under such circumstances, should make us doubly attentive to the disease in the beginning, when it is mostly within our power.

I hardly need observe, that, besides *bloodletting*, *counter irritation* of different kinds is to be used; or to remind you, that *mercury*, as on other occasions, and after a proper use of bloodletting, is calculated to assist materially in the cure. As to what are commonly termed *expectorants*, these are

probably of little moment. It is no doubt desirable to see expectoration taking place freely; but this is rather to be looked on as a *sign*, than as a *cause*, of returning health. Nor is it much in our power to promote this event, unless by the use of nauseating medicines; and these, in all probability, accomplish the object, rather by checking the inflammation, than by any direct *expectorant* power.

A *mild* and *chronic* kind of pulmonary inflammation is a far more common occurrence, than the acute form I have just described to you, and, on the whole, is much more fatal in its result. It takes place mostly at the approach of winter, commonly in the form of catarrh, and spreads gradually to the lungs themselves, and often their investing membrane; giving rise to a complication of symptoms, easy to be conceived. If neglected, as among the poorer classes generally is the case, it continues till perhaps the return of spring and is renewed the succeeding winter, becoming worse on each return, and gradually laying a foundation for various incurable states of disease in these organs. The mucous membrane becomes permanently thickened, and otherwise diseased in its structure, and acquires a habit of secreting mucus largely, and of a

vitiated quality; thus occasioning a continued difficulty of breathing, with constant cough, vulgarly termed *asthma*, and that fluctuates in point of severity with season and weather. The affection of the pleura, in its turn, gives rise to adhesion and serous accumulation in the cavity of the chest. While the continued or frequently repeated attacks of inflammation, however slight, in the lungs themselves, gradually induce an alteration of structure in these parts, which, by slow degrees, degenerates into *pulmonary consumption*, a disease which we shall soon have to notice.

Nor is this the whole of the mischief that results from slight and neglected inflammation in the pulmonary organs. The resistance the heart encounters in its endeavors to propel the blood through the lungs in the diseased state of these organs, becomes a source of irritation to the heart, that at length terminates in actual disease, such as morbid enlargement or other change of structure, either in the heart itself or the large vessels connected with it, attended of necessity with disordered action, discoverable in the pulse, and which is productive of the greatest possible distress to the patient, and not unfrequently a sudden and fatal termination. A great proportion

of the chronic diseases of the heart originate in this way, namely, in diseased lungs.

General *anasarea*, first noticed about the ankles, is also frequently induced by the same cause, inflammation of the parts within the chest, impeding, by pressure, or by the extension of inflammation to the great trunks of the absorbing system, the free discharge of lymph into the veins. Many of these cases of dropsy, if early attended to, and treated by moderate and repeated *bloodletting*, and other *antiphlogistic* measures, admit of cure, by the removal of the cause; whereas, if treated in a different way, by stimulants and the like, they soon terminate fatally.

From this case of disease, and many like it, the reflecting reader will perceive the propriety of sending early for medical aid. In many diseases, whether acute or insidious, whatever is attempted, to be successful, must be done early. Success will also often depend on the tranquillity of the patient, and his strict compliance with the means devised, and directions given, for his relief. This, too, is one of the multitude of diseases which so frequently arise from inattention to the common causes of catarrh, as too light clothing in damp, chilly and cold weather, —wet feet, and various habits more or less repugnant to health, consisting a good deal in a neglect of those expedients which invigorate the sys-

tem, and which would enable it to surmount the common influences of atmospheric changes.

We shall have occasion to return to this subject hereafter.

RELATIONS OF THE DIGESTIVE FUNCTIONS
WITH OUR SENSATIONS.

Hunger.—When the stomach is in a healthy condition, and has remained for some time empty, the well-known sensation of hunger is produced; to account for which, various hypotheses have been devised. Some have attributed its origin to the friction of the sides of the stomach on each other, or to the dragging of the liver on the diaphragm; others to the action of bile or acid vapors on the stomach; to the compression of the nerves, or to the fatigue of the contracted fibres of the stomach: but such theories are subverted by the fact, that the stomach may remain empty for a long interval, during disease, without any sensation of hunger; and that when present, it may cease or be allayed by various causes, though food should not have been taken; as often happens after the accustomed period of repast is over, or from the sudden communication of news that overwhelms us with grief or disappointment. The physiologists of the present day attribute the phenomenon to the stimulant action of the gastric juice on the nerves of the stomach; and to support this opinion, Dr Wilson Philip relates the following experiment. A person in good health was prevailed on to abstain from eating for more than twentyfour hours, and during this interval to increase the appetite by more than ordinary exercise. At the end of this time he was extremely hungry; but, instead of eating, he excited vomiting by drinking warm water, and irritating the fauces. The water returned mixed only with a ropy fluid, such as the gastric juice is described to be. After this operation, not only

all desire to eat was removed, but a degree of disgust was excited by seeing others eat. He, however, was prevailed on to take a little bread and milk, which in a very short time ran into the acetous fermentation, as indicated by flatulence and acid eructation. I do not mean to deny that the presence of a portion of gastric juice may not contribute to the sensation of hunger; but I feel more disposed to refer the phenomenon to an energetic state of the gastric nerves, occasioned by an interval of inactivity, during which their vital powers may be supposed to accumulate. With respect to the actual quantity of gastric fluid in an empty stomach, we know little or nothing. It seems probable that it is supplied during digestion, and that its secretion corresponds with the nature and quantity of the ingesta. If a narcotic be applied to the nerves, their power is paralyzed, and the sensation of hunger ceases; such an effect is produced by the juice of tobacco, though by long habit the stomach may become indifferent to its operation. Whenever the Indians of Asia and America undertake a long journey, and are likely to be destitute of provisions, they mix the juice of tobacco with powdered shells, in the form of small balls, which they retain in their mouths, the gradual solution of which serves to counteract the uneasy craving of the stomach. In like manner we may explain the operation of spirit in taking away the appetite of those who are not accustomed to it; while those who indulge the habit receive its stimulant without its narcotic impression.

Natural appetite, which is only the first degree of hunger, never appears to recur till the aliment previously introduced has been duly assimilated. It cannot, therefore, strictly speaking, be said to have an immediate reference to the state of the stomach; for though all the chyme may long since have passed out of this organ, if any delay occurs in its

ulterior changes, appetite will not return, for the nervous energy is engaged in their completion, and cannot therefore accumulate in the stomach: on the contrary, in certain diseases, as in *tabes mesenterica*, notwithstanding the presence of alimentary matter in the stomach, the appetite is never pacified, in consequence, probably, of the diminished expenditure of vital power which attends the act of chylification in such cases, where only a small quantity of chyle is absorbed by the lacteals, and poured into the circulation. Voracity, or canine appetite, may sometimes depend on a morbid state of the pylorus, which suffers the food to pass out of the stomach before it is properly chymified: such cases are attended with extreme emaciation. From these views we may deduce the following important corollary,—that the several processes by which aliment is converted into blood cannot be simultaneously performed, without such an increased expenditure of vital energy as weak persons cannot, without inconvenience, sustain: thus chylification would appear to require the quiescence of the stomach, and sanguification to be still more incompatible with the act of chymification. If, therefore, the stomach be set to work during the latter stages of digestion, the processes will in weak persons be much disturbed, if not entirely suspended. Certain circumstances cause hunger to return at nearer intervals, by accelerating the nutritive process; while others, by producing an opposite tendency, lengthen such intervals.

It is a wellknown fact, that if a person be interrupted in his meal for a quarter of an hour, he finds, on resuming it, that his appetite is gone, though he may have not eaten half the quantity which he required. Dr Wilson Philip explains this circumstance by supposing, that the gastric fluid which had accumulated has had time to combine with, and be neutralized by, the food he had taken;

but those who believe with me, that a new supply of gastric fluid is furnished on the contact of every fresh portion of food, must seek for some other explanation. Will not the views which I have offered in the preceding paragraph afford a solution of the problem? namely, that during the suspension of the meal the food had entered on its ulterior changes, and that the energies of the stomach had therefore declined.

The subsidence of appetite, or the feeling of satiety is not produced by the *quantity* but the *quality* of the food,—the very reverse of what would happen were the mere volume of the aliment alone necessary to pacify the cravings of the stomach. This is remarkably displayed in the habits of ruminating animals; for in wet and gloomy seasons, when the grass contains a diminished portion of nutritive matter, these animals are never satisfied—they are constantly in the act of grazing; whereas, in hot and dry weather, they consume the greater portion of their time in that of ruminating, or chewing the cud. I apprehend that this is not to be explained, as M. Majendie believes, to the sensibility of the mucous membrane of the stomach, but is to be solely referred to the fact, that the vital energy is only expended in decomposing such substances as are capable of furnishing chyle. Volume or bulk, however, is a necessary condition of wholesome food: the capacity of our digestive organs sufficiently proves that nature never intended them for the reception of highly concentrated food. I some years ago directed considerable attention, in conjunction with some wellknown agriculturalists, to the nutritive value of different crops, as the food of cattle, and I constructed a logometric scale for the solution of various problems connected with the subject; but I soon found that mere bulk produced a very important influence, and that, to render one species of nutriment equivalent in value

to another, it was necessary to take into consideration the quantity of inert matter which furnished excrement.

Thirst.—This instinctive feeling announces to the individual the necessity of introducing a certain quantity of liquid into the system, in order to repair the waste which the body has sustained in the exercise of its functions; or to impart a due degree of solubility to the aliments which have been taken. We accordingly find that excessive perspiration increases the demand, and dry food is followed by the same effect. With the history of morbid thirst we have at present nothing to do. The sensation of thirst appears to reside in the throat and fauces, as that of hunger does in the stomach; and yet the intensity of this feeling does not bear any relation to the dryness of these parts; for in some cases where the tongue, to its very root, is covered with a thick and dry crust, there is little thirst; while, on the other hand, it is frequently intolerable at the very time the mouth is surcharged with a preternatural quantity of saliva: like hunger, I apprehend it must be referred to a particular condition of the nerves. The desire for drink after long speaking is analogous to thirst, but must not be confounded with it. The influence of salted food in exciting this sensation is not well understood.

Thirst is certainly under the control of habit: those who indulge in the vicious habit of frequent potations are rendered thirsty, by its privation. There are some persons who have never experienced the sensation, and who only drink from a sort of sympathy, but who could live a long time without thinking of it, or without suffering from the want of it. I have a lady, of fifty years of age, at this time under my care, who has declared that she is perfectly unacquainted with the nature of the sensation. Sauvage relates two similar instances that oc-

curred to himself; and Blumenbach, also, quotes several examples of the same idiosyncrasy.

The sensations of hunger and thirst appear to be incompatible with each other: when the stomach requires food, there is no inclination to drink; and when thirst rages, the very idea of solid aliment disgusts us. So, again, those circumstances which tend to destroy appetite may even excite thirst, such as the passions of the mind &c.

When the healthy system is in a condition to require food, besides the local sensation of hunger, there are certain general phenomena which deserve notice;—a universal lassitude of the body is experienced; there is also a sensation of pressure or drawing down, in the epigastric region; the diameter of the intestines becomes diminished, and their peristaltic motion being at the same time increased, portions of contained air are successively displaced, which give rise to gurgling sounds. There is, besides, an alteration in the situation of some of the abdominal viscera; they are less capable of sustaining pressure, and they receive a less quantity of blood. M. Majendie also supposes, that when the stomach is empty, all the reservoirs contained in the abdomen are more easily distended by the matters which remain sometime in them; and he believes that this is the principal reason why bile then accumulates in the gall-bladder. As soon as a certain quantity of food enters the stomach, the general feeling of lassitude gives place to that of renewed force, and this usually occurs more rapidly after the ingestion of liquid, than of solid aliment; which is sufficient to prove that the phenomenon results from a local action on the nerves of the stomach, since in neither case is it possible to suppose that any nutritive principle can have been so rapidly transferred to the system.

So soon as digestion commences, the blood flows with increased force

to the organs destined for its completion; whence, in delicate persons, the operation is frequently attended with a diminution in the power of the senses, and a slight shiver is even experienced; the skin becomes contracted, and the insensible perspiration is diminished. As the process, however, proceeds, a reaction takes place; and, after it is completed, the perspiration becomes free, and often abundant. When the chyle enters the blood, the body becomes enlivened, and the stomach and small intestines having been liberated from their burden, oppose no obstacle to the free indulgence of that desire for activity, which nature has thus instinctively excited for our benefit. Then it is that animals are roused from that repose into which they had subsided during the earlier stages of digestion, and betake themselves to action; then it is that civilized man feels an aptness for exertion, though he mistakes the nature and object of the impulse, and, as Dr Prout justly observes, is inclined to regard it as nothing more than a healthy sensation by which he is summoned to that occupation to which inclination or duty may prompt him. Thus, instead of being *bodily* active, the studious man receives it as a summons to *mental* exertion; the indolent man, perhaps, merely to *sit up and enjoy himself*; the libertine to commence his libations; and the votary of fashion to attend the crowded circles of gaiety and dissipation: in short, this feeling of renovated energy is used, or abused, in a thousand ways by different individuals, without their ever dreaming that *bodily exercise, and this alone*, is implied by it. The result of which is, that imperfect assimilation, and all its train of consequences, take place.

Some difference of opinion has existed with regard to the utility or mischief of exercise immediately after eating; but in this question, as in most others of a like nature, the truth will be found to lie between

the extremes. Those who, from confounding the effects of gentle, with those of exhausting exercise, maintain the necessity of rest for the perfect performance of the digestive process, appeal to the experiment of Sir Busick Harwood, the mere relation of which will be sufficient to negative the inference which they would deduce from its result. The Downing Professor took two pointers, equally hungry, and equally well fed; the one he suffered to lie quiet after his meal, the other he kept for above two hours in constant exercise. On returning home, he had them both killed. In the stomach of the dog that had remained quiet and asleep, all the food was found chymified; but in the stomach of the other dog, the process of digestion had scarcely commenced. Exercise, let it be remembered, must be measured in relation to the strength and habits of the individual: we have daily experience to prove that the husbandman may return to his daily labor, and the schoolboy to his gambols, immediately after a frugal meal, without inconvenience or injury; but the same degree of exercise to a person of sedentary habits, or of weak stamina, would probably arrest and subvert the whole process of digestion. The influence of habit, in rendering exercise salutary or injurious, is shown in a variety of instances: a person who would suffer from the slightest exertion after dinner, will undertake a fatiguing labor after breakfast, however solid and copious this meal may have been. If we assent to the proposition of the Cambridge Professor, we must in consistency acknowledge, that exercise before a meal, is at least as injurious as he would lead us to suppose it is after a repast: for if the valetudinarian takes his dinner in a state of fatigue, he will assuredly experience some impediment in its digestion; but are we to argue that, on this account, exercise is neither to precede nor follow a meal? We may as well,

without further discussion, subscribe to the opinion of Hieronymus Cardanus, who, insisting on the advantages of perfect rest, observes, that *trees live longer than animals because they never stir from their places.*

Paris on Diet.

From Silliman's Journal.

A RUSSIAN SUBSTITUTE FOR INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

The common drinks in Russia are the *Kwass*, and the *Meth* or *Kisslich*. To prepare the *Kwass*, they take a quantity of rye, and having soaked about a tenth part of it, they spread it thinly on boards or plates, and expose it to moderate heat, till it sprouts, taking care to sprinkle it now and then with warm water. When sufficiently germinated, they mix it with the rest of the rye, previously ground, and add to the mass a quantity of warm or tepid water. The vessel is then put into an oven, immediately after the bread is drawn, or exposed to a similar temperature, and by degrees more water is added to the paste, stirring it on every addition. After a time of repose, and when the liquid has become a little clean, it is put into a keg or barrel, in which it ferments during several days. It is then put into the cellar, and in a few days is drinkable. This beverage is better when, instead of putting it into casks, it is fermented in large jugs, and when clarified, put into bottles. It then acquires a vinous taste, becomes lively and agreeable, and is of a yellowish color. The sediment is good for cattle.

The *Kisslich* is thus prepared. R. 2 lb. of rye malt, and the same quantity of barley malt; make a paste of them with warm water, and let it ferment till it has acquired a strong taste. Dilute it with 10 lb. of tepid water, and add a few lemon peels. When fermenting, add 20 lb. of water, and after the fermentation is complete, bottle it.

The *Bartsch*, which is drank principally in Poland and Lithuania, is

made with the young leaves and seeds of the acanthus, boiled in water, to which leaven is added, and after fermentation and filtering, it is kept in a cool place.—*Bul. Un.*

PROCESS FOR CHARGING WATER WITH IRON.

If we form a pile with a few pieces of silver and iron plates, placed alternately, and immerse the pile in water, the fluid will soon acquire a yellowish tint, and in 24 hours the oxide of iron will appear in abundance. If the ferruginated water be withdrawn, and the vessel be filled every day with fresh water, we shall have a kind of artificial mineral spring.*—*Payen. Bul. Un.* 1824.

EDUCATION OF A YOUNG ENGLISH GENTLEMAN.

He is first trained at one of the great public schools, established in close alliance with the church, and under the management of clerical teachers; he is then handed over to a priest to prepare him for college. When ripe for college, he is received by many priests and quasipriests and tutored there, if not in much science, at least in much reverence for the mother church, and in as great horror of the pope as his ancestors were taught to entertain for the reformation in the same halls, under the same arts. When he leaves the sacred haunts, he is attended on the grand tour by some chosen priest,

* At page 105, vol. VIII of this Journal, is the following notice by Professor Hare:—"If a few pieces of silver coin be alternated with pieces of sheet iron, on placing the pile in water, it soon acquires a chalybeate taste and a yellow hue, and in 24 hours, flocks of oxide and of iron appear. Hence, by replenishing with water a vessel, in which such a pile is placed, after each draught, we may have a competent substitute for a chalybeate spring. Clean copper plates, alternating with iron, would answer; or a clean copper wire entwined on an iron rod; but as the copper, when oxidated, yields an oxide, it is safer to employ silver." As Dr Hare's observation was published early in 1824, we are bound to consider it as original with him.—*Ed.*

fellow of a college, and expectant of a living, either from that college, or from his pupil: and finally he returns to take his place as a legislator by hereditary right in one house, or by hereditary nomination in the other, filled with unspeakable respect for every existing institution of his own country, and contempt of every foreign usage; convinced that no Papist can be saved, that no dissenter can be a gentleman, that no person of the Church of England can do wrong, that nobody but a parson of the said church can teach his children, and that no place is fit and safe for them to be taught at but Oxford or Cambridge, which has made him what he is.—*Boston Atheneum.*

BOSTON, TUESDAY, NOV. 21, 1826.

ON THE CHOICE OF A PHYSICIAN.

In the first place he should possess a good understanding. Weak men, with plausible manners, and superficial attainments, may make very good quacks, and often become sufficiently current and popular to acquire business and money,—but they can never become able physicians. There is not a single mental faculty which this profession does not need, and tax to the utmost. He must be educated. Strong endowments, with courage, energy and perseverance, will, in some cases, without assistance, and even in spite of obstacles, surmount every difficulty, and rise to eminence. In medicine this should not be expected, or desired, for it can never take place without much and long experience, and this experience must have cost many lives before the experimenter can become even a harmless practitioner.

The young physician must labor long and diligently, and under the

direction of the best guides, before he can be safely trusted to enter alone on the duties of his profession. Much direct and collateral information must be acquired before he can fail to do mischief. What think you, then, my readers, of those selfstyled practitioners, who are but six or twelve months from the plough, the plane, or the last? Try them, if you will; but recollect it is, and must be, at your own peril. If the intellectual, the well-educated, the faithful, and the industrious physician, after twenty or thirty years' devotion to his calling, occasionally finds himself unable to effect what he ardently desires and attempts, unable to preserve, or materially to relieve his patient,—what shall we think of him who trusts his life in the hands of the young, half, and less than half formed pretender, who is too little informed to perceive his own weakness, and too self-complacent to feel any doubts or difficulties?

Select a man of principle. In how many instances have the innocence and peace of individuals been marred and destroyed by unprincipled physicians. Think of the confidence with which they are received into families and society, from the nature of their office and relations. How natural it is to feel grateful, and safe, and unsuspecting, toward him who has stood by us in hours of danger and suffering, and who by kindness, and skill, and assiduity, and tenderness, has conducted us to safety and repose. Can it be imagined that such a friend can betray our confidence in a day of prosperity and security? For he who has a heart

to deceive, has often not only the disposition, but is also endowed with every talent and attraction to secure a confidence which he means to turn to his own unhallowed purpose.

Every physician carries about with him a moral or an immoral atmosphere and influence, as some recent events sufficiently imply, if the fact had not been demonstrated a thousand times before.

He should be a man not given to flattery. He who permits himself to use direct and gross flattery is weak, or base, or corruptly selfish; he wants refinement, and taste and purity. The esteem and approbation of the wise and good, when properly expressed, is the highest earthly reward for good conduct, and one of the strongest incentives to it; and he who values this most highly, will be most averse to vulgar and coarse commendation.

He should be upright and independent. He should be paid for his services, and well paid, for no laborer is more worthy of his hire, than a good physician. But he should be governed by higher motives in entering on his profession and pursuing it, than that of making a fortune.

There is comparatively but a small portion of the sick, who have sufficient humility, magnanimity, and love of truth, to be willing to bear plain dealing from the physician; for most of our complaints arise from our indolence, excesses, mistakes, weaknesses, faults or deficiencies, of some kind or other. To lay open these causes of disease and to correct them, is generally so unpleasant a

task to both parties, and so liable to be offensive to one at least, that the work is ordinarily but very partially and imperfectly accomplished, and the fault is commonly to be divided between the patient and his attendant, sometimes existing chiefly on one side, sometimes on the other. Both parties should aim to do better. The physician should accustom himself kindly but faithfully to do what the welfare of his patient demands, and the latter should learn to approve, if not to command, what is so done for his restoration and continued wellbeing.

He should be a man of temperate habits. The physician is like "the officer of the day" in a military encampment; always liable to be hastily called on when any difficulty or accident occurs, and likely to need the full exercise of all his faculties and resources, natural and acquired. There must be no compromise in this matter; however painful it may be to give up a friend and former benefactor—it must be done; it is one mode of checking intemperance, that black cloud which hangs over our otherwise bright and happy land. It is better that one guilty should suffer, than that fifty innocent should be exposed to ruin.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

The eleventh number of this valuable periodical is just from the press, and we are gratified to find in its pages so much to interest and instruct. This work is a valuable auxiliary, in the cause of learning in New England, and we hope its indefatigable proprietors will find abundant encouragement to prosecute their labors undiminished. It should

be in every public and private library, and in the hands of every instructor of youth.

We copy this notice from the *Traveller*, as we could not better express the high estimation in which we have always held the Journal of Education. It is precisely the work we all need to sustain and accelerate the great work of improvement, public and private, individual and national.

EXPOSE, EXPOSITION.

Some editors of newspapers use the former of these words for the latter, which is a mistake not less gross or mischievous, than to substitute the word transpose for transposition, or depose for deposition. They mean, it is true, the French word *exposé*, but as the accent is not used, the blunder is virtually as above stated. But why should any one use a foreign word which so few comparatively know how to write, print, pronounce, or interpret, when we have an equivalent in our own language, which is perfect, and all we need; and which everybody can read, write, print and understand? Let those who are capable of committing this outrage against every attribute of a good style, answer the question.

DICTIONARY.

Acetic acid, vinegar freed from water and various impurities by distillation.

Anasarca, a species of dropsy, in which a serous fluid is effused between the skin and the flesh.

Antiphlogistic, cooling, reducing inflammation.

Bronchia, the branches of the windpipe.

Erysipelas, St. Anthony's fire.

Erythema, a morbid redness of the skin.

Hemoptysis, a bleeding from the lungs.

Ingesta, everything taken into the stomach.

Lacteals, absorbing vessels which carry the chyle into the bloodvessels.

Pleura, a membrane which lines the internal surface of the thorax, or chest, and covers the lungs.

Prognosis, foretelling the event of a disease from particular symptoms.

Pylorus, the lower opening of the stomach, through which the food passes into the intestines.

Serum, the thin, watery part of the blood.

Tubes Mesenteria, a wasting of the body from want of nourishment.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

JUST published in Boston, and for sale by Hilliard, Gray & Co., THE FRIEND TO HEALTH, being a selection of valuable Truths relating to the Preservation of Health, from the works of Thacher, Thompson, Salzmann, &c. 1 vol. 12mo. pp. 107.

AMERICAN MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY.

THIS contemplated work is in progress, and a prospectus and subscription will be arranged and presented to the public so soon as materials can be collected. Those gentlemen who will be kind enough to furnish materials for the work are respectfully requested to forward their communications to the publisher of this paper, or to Dr Thacher, Plymouth, the intended author, as soon as may be convenient.

MODERN PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

JUST published by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184, Washington-St., a new and greatly improved edition of the MODERN PRACTICE OF PHYSIC, by JAS. THACHER, M.D. A.A.S. Author of the American New Dispensatory, and Observations on Hydrophobia. To this work is prefixed an interesting history of the rise and progress of Medical Science in the United States, detailing in the order of their respective organization, an account of the Medical Schools, with the names of the

Professors and number of students in each, together with the expenses and terms of admission and graduation in the several schools. In treating of the diseases in this work, the author has consulted those European authorities which are considered of the highest standing at the present day; as Good, Parr, Thomas, Armstrong, &c. But, as relates to the epidemic and other diseases peculiar to our own country, precedence has been given to American authors, as the most correct and sure guides to American practitioners. The author expresses a confident hope that this work will be found to comprise a mass of practical knowledge that will meet the approbation of the profession, and prove particularly useful to the young practitioner.

Boston, Nov. 1826.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

THE Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College, will commence on Tuesday, the 20th day of February, 1827.

Theory and Practice of Physic by DANIEL OLIVER, M. D. Professor of the same department at Hanover, N. H.

Anatomy and Surgery by J. D. WELLS, M. D.

Midwifery by J. M'KEAN, M. D.

Chemistry and Materia Medica by P. CLEAVELAND, M. D.

The *Anatomical Cabinet* is very valuable and extensive.

The *Library* is one of the best Medical Libraries in New England; and is every year enriched by new works, both foreign and domestic.

Every person becoming a member of this Institution, is required to present satisfactory evidence, that he possesses a good moral character.

Citizens of Maine in indigent circumstances may have *surgical operations* performed, free of expense, if brought into the vicinity of the College during the Course.—As a reduction in the price of boarding is an object of importance to many, arrangements have been made, which, it is hoped, may effect this object to a considerable extent.

Brunswick, September 26, 1826.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS. THE Trustees have the satisfaction to announce that the Honorable the

Regents of the University have filled the vacant Professorships in this Institution, and that the College will be opened on the first Monday of November next, by an Address from the President. The respective courses of Lectures in the following order, viz.

JOHN AUGUSTINE SMITH, M. D. on *Anatomy and Physiology*.

ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D. on *the Principles and Practice of Surgery*.

JAMES F. DANA, M. D. on *Chemistry*.

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M. D. on *the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine*.

EDWARD DELAFIELD, M. D. on *Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children*.

JOHN B. BECK, M. D. on *Materia Medica and Botany*.

The Trustees are assured that the several courses of instruction will be full and complete, and that the means of illustration will be ample.

The students who have already attended Lectures in this Institution, are notified that the changes which have taken place in the College will not deprive them of any privileges or facilities heretofore enjoyed.

In conformity with the ordinances of the Honorable the Regents of the University, and the Laws of the State of New-York, every Student is required to attend two full courses of all the Lectures delivered in the College, before he can be admitted as a candidate for the Doctorate; unless said Student shall have attended Lectures in this College prior to the Session of 1822-3, or shall have attended one entire course of Lectures delivered in some incorporated Medical School or University.

The candidate must also have studied three years with some respectable practitioner of Medicine, and have arrived at the age of 21 years.

In announcing the new organization of the College and its first session in November next, the Board of Trustees believe that the high expectations of the Profession and the Public will be fully realized, and sustained by the distinguished reputation and talents of the several Gentlemen who have been appointed to fill the respective professorships.

By order of the Board of Trustees,
JOHN WATTS, Jr. M. D., Pres.
NICOLL H. DERING, M. D., Regist.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St., to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid).—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, in no case, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1826.

NO. 28.

*Advice to Young Mothers on
the Physical Education of
Children. By a Grandmo-
ther. London. 1823.*

The perusal of this book leaves a strong persuasion on the reader's mind, that every intelligent mother who perseveringly makes the attempt, may succeed in rendering herself exceedingly useful to her children in the physical, as well as in the intellectual and moral departments of their education.

This lady, who seems fully entitled to the honorable name of a Grandmother, has with great judgment drawn the line within which she has qualified herself to act with safety and advantage without the physician, and beyond which he is seasonably called in. When this is done, after telling him every thing, she places herself by his side, attentive only to understand and execute his wishes. So far as we can judge of the wants and taste of mothers and general readers, we shall occasionally enrich these pages with suitable portions of instruction from this treasury of experience and good sense.

Some parts of the work will need a few explanatory remarks, to adapt them to a climate and state of society

somewhat different from those in which they were written.

In her preface the author says,

The object of this work is, chiefly, to instruct young mothers how to *prevent*, rather than to *cure*, the diseases of children; for when maladies assume a dangerous form, and require medical treatment, the study of years is necessary to apply it with advantage. When, at some future time, the progress of science shall have simplified the art of healing, to the general advantage of mankind, the preventive part of medicine will, probably, be considered as the most important; and, in consequence, the number of maladies be diminished.

Long experience, and much observation, have induced the author of this work to believe, that a great number of the diseases which afflict the human race are effects of imprudence and neglect in the early part of life; and that by constant and judicious attention to the physical education, during the first fifteen years, many of these diseases might be

avoided, For this reason she is anxious to diffuse, amongst her own sex, a species of knowledge which may enable mothers to educate their children with better prospects of health and happiness; and, perhaps, to occasion them to take a greater interest in the welfare of their offspring, by proving how much it depends on their attention.

The disadvantages under which a medical man labors, in his attendance on infant patients, are many, and may be ascribed to various causes; but the greatest is the difficulty of obtaining accurate information from the sick, who are incapable of describing their sensations, and when the principal lights are to be received from some person totally ignorant of the science of medicine. This often renders the task of prescribing for the diseases of children a matter of great difficulty; and the indiscretion of their attendants, frequently, counteracts the good effects of the most judicious advice.

Even where a physician, by being the father of a numerous offspring, may appear to have had the best means of studying those maladies incident to the early years of man, it is impossible he should ever have such experience of the momentary changes to which the infant frame is liable, as may be acquired by an observing mother

or an attentive nurse; and which, were it combined with a moderate degree of scientific knowledge, would often prove the surest guide to the medical attendant. But it too frequently happens that, through the ignorance of those about them, the complaints of children are at first disregarded; palliative remedies are neglected, and the professional man is not sought for till it is too late. In truth, no appearance of indisposition in a child should ever be thought trifling; and though the greater number may not require the assistance of medicine, yet, in those that do, it should be resorted to without delay. It is to little purpose that a physician is consulted when the vital powers have been exhausted by the continuance of disease; and still less when only a part of his advice is followed. Such is often the consequence of that sort of ignorance, which it is the object of this work to diminish.

When the best physicians are surrounded with difficulties in their treatment of the maladies to which infants are subject, it is not surprising that many children are lost through the want of a little more knowledge in the women who are constantly about them. Various indispositions are brought on or increased by neglect; and the timely application of simple remedies would often

check the progress of maladies which become dangerous through inattention.

It sometimes happens that a long series of years spent in the service of children, may have given to an old nurse a degree of experience, which, if accompanied with discretion and modesty, would be of infinite value ; but, unfortunately, it is usually attended with the inconvenience of her fancying herself *capable of prescribing medicines* with the nature and the force of which she is unacquainted, and which, if improperly administered, may occasion the most pernicious effects. The courage of ignorance is always great ; the mistakes resulting from it often fatal ; and it frequently happens, both in regard to children and adults, that, in cases where the learned and judicious physician considers it prudent to delay his exertions, a vulgar apothecary, or an old nurse, will throw in medicine on medicine ; and, by disturbing the salutary efforts of nature, augment the disease, perhaps to the destruction of the patient.

The excessive ignorance of the generality of mankind respecting everything that relates to medicine, is productive of many bad consequences ; one of which, and not the least, is the power it bestows on a tribe of ignorant pretenders,

who infest the earth, to the great detriment of the sick ; for few persons know how to distinguish between them and those men who, dedicating their time and talents to the researches of science, are enabled to relieve the infirmities of human nature. To choose a physician well, one should be half a physician one's self : but as this is not the case with many, the best plan which the mother of a family can adopt is, to select a man whose education has been suitable to his profession ; whose habits of life are such, as prove that he continues to acquire both practical and theoretical knowledge ; who is neither a bigot in old opinions, nor an enthusiast in new ; and, for many reasons, not the fashionable doctor of the day. A little attention in making the necessary inquiries, will suffice to ascertain the requisites here specified ; to which should be added, what is usually found in medical men of real merit, those qualities which may serve to render him an agreeable companion : for the family physician should always be the family friend.

Though the design of this work has been merely to treat of physical education, a subject which has been much less discussed than morals, yet, the strict connexion between mind and body has rendered it im-

possible to enter fully into the former without touching on the latter: and it is to be hoped that what has been said of the moral part of education will not be considered as altogether useless.

The observations and advice contained in this work are chiefly the result of the author's own experience; and when they are founded on the information of others, this information has been examined with the strictest attention. The book is the production of many years' study and experience; and the author cannot help flattering herself that it will be of some use to those for whom it is designed,—the *anxious mother*, the *attentive governess*, and the *careful nurse*.

RHEUMATISM.

The Editors of the *Medical Review* of Paris have given some cases of rheumatism to illustrate the benefit to be derived from camphor fumigation, which occurred in the practice of M. Dupasquier. He adopted this practice in consequence of having observed the success of M. Cheze, who employed it from some supposed analogy between rheumatism and lockjaw. In acute cases M. Dupasquier observes, fumigation was preceded by bleeding; but in the cases related by him, the fumigations were employed

without this precaution, and attended with *immediate* advantage. M. Cheze employed camphor internally, the julep, and externally in the form of vapor, with friction; but M. Dupasquier confined his practice to fumigation. "The best method of employing fumigation," he says, "is by exposing the patient to the action of the camphor vapor in a proper fumigating case or apparatus; and as it is not always practicable to convey a patient, laboring under chronic rheumatism, to a vapor bath, he recommends a portable fumigating case, similar to the sudatory of M. La Beaume." When the patient's circumstances will not enable him to have a proper apparatus, "the camphor vapor may be easily used by seating him in a chair placed over a small furnace, the furnace being covered by a metallic plate. The patient is then enveloped in a large blanket, which is to be tied close round the neck, and allowed to hang to the ground. A small spoonful of camphor may then be thrown on the metallic plate every five minutes; it soon becomes volatilized, so that the parts of the body with which it comes in contact will, in a short time, be covered with perspiration. This operation may be continued an hour, or three quarters of an hour, according to its re-

laxing effects, or as the high temperature may be agreeable. The patient is then to be wrapped up in the blanket, and put to bed, where the perspiration will continue an hour or two; during which time a considerable portion of camphor will be absorbed." Half an ounce of camphor M. Dupasquier found sufficient for one fumigation; "but," says he, "much more may be used without inconvenience, and I have known a patient employ four ounces by mistake without any bad consequences."

M. Dupasquier has employed the above method with signal, though not with invariable success; and he has generally found, that the more acute the disease was, the more readily it yielded to the remedy. He generally encourages perspiration during the process by giving some slightly sudorific drink. The fumigations were repeated according to circumstances; if the patient be strong or severely affected, he recommends it to be used three or four times a day. It appears that in all cases it is necessary to persevere in it for at least a week after the pains have disappeared. Sometimes partial fumigations only, which are much more easily borne by the patient, may be required.

In one case, the patient being afflicted with violent pain

in the shoulder, and very unwilling to repeat the fumigation, was directed to wear a little bag of camphor in the armpit, and in consequence, as M. Dupasquier supposes, of the speedy absorption of the camphor, the patient felt a numbness in his arm about half an hour afterwards, after which the pain rapidly ceased. The same application was frequently employed with the same results. The remedy is much more pleasant than sulphur fumigation; and, from the peculiar properties of camphor in allaying nervous excitement, and in promoting the secretion of the skin, we have no doubt is a more efficacious remedy. We recommend M. Dupasquier's mode of treating rheumatism, both acute and chronic, local or general, to the attention of those practitioners who have the means of using it.

London Gazette of Health.

THE OPERATION OF BLEEDING.

In our Medical Guide, p. 119, edit. 14th, we have noticed a case of a woman who lost her life in consequence of the puncture of an artery of the arm by a popular bleeder, ignorant of anatomy. The patient was admitted into the Hereford Infirmary, but the mortification having extended to the chest, the case was hopeless. The following case of puncture of the radial arte-

ry, by a druggist unacquainted with anatomy, in which it was necessary to take up the artery in order to save the arm of the unfortunate patient, lately occurred at the Westminster Infirmary.

A man about forty years of age, applied to a druggist to be bled. The druggist, who is the popular bleeder of the neighborhood, in performing the operation, introduced the point of the lancet into the artery lying under the vein. The blood continuing to be thrown out after the bandage was removed, the sapient gentleman, with the *sang froid* peculiar to this class of operators, applied compresses with much pressure, and the bleeding being thus stopped, the operator told him "he might go, and that all would do well." The bleeding recurred two or three times a day, till he was admitted a patient of the Westminster Infirmary, which was about five days after the operation. A considerable tumor had then formed at the bend of the fore arm, attended with pulsation. In the course of the evening the bleeding returned to such an extent, that the house surgeon found it necessary to send for the surgeon of the week, who, on examining the tumor, considered the case of so serious a nature, that he lost no time in cutting down to the wounded artery

to apply a ligature above and below the puncture. Simple dressings were used, and the arm being much swollen, fomentation and a poultice were employed. On the following day the swelling had greatly subsided, and the patient was apparently going on well. Mr White apologized to the pupils of the hospital for having operated in their absence. The appearances of the patient, and the state of the arm satisfied them that a speedy and decisive practice was necessary to save the limb. The arm was so much swollen and discolored that Mr Alcock was induced to take a drawing of the parts, as a good specimen of distension of the cellular membrane by blood from the force of an artery. This case, whilst it shows the necessity of granting a new charter to the College of Surgeons, that will give this body the power to prevent ignorant pretenders from practising surgery, or of performing even the simplest surgical operation, must forcibly point out to the ignorant the great risk they run in applying to men of no surgical education, and unacquainted with anatomy, to be bled. If Mr White had not acted with promptitude, the patient would have lost his arm, if not his life. The College of Surgeons having no power to compel such ignorant

pretenders to relinquish their trade of bleeding, drawing teeth, and setting of bones, we hope the man who suffered from the ignorance of the druggist, will discharge his duty to the public by prosecuting him.—*Ibid.*

From the Providence Journal.

ON THE TEETH.

From what has been said, relative to this branch of surgery, in some of our late papers, I conceive it highly incumbent on me to offer a few remarks, by way of caution and advice, to those who may be too ready to have any experiments, however absurd or dangerous, performed on them, in the hope of instant relief from the tantalizing pain of a toothache. That this department of medical science owes much to ingenious mechanical invention, for its present state of perfection, is a fact not to be denied; yet this fact augurs but poorly that every invention, because it may boast considerable ingenuity in its maker, should, of course, be an improvement in the science.

The effect of Mr Fay's method of curing the toothache, by cutting the tooth off below the gum, has been too often, unintentionally, manifested in this country, by the ignorance of quacks, in their selecting improper instruments, when called on to extract a tooth, and to their surprise and confusion, it was broken at the neck. What is the state of the patient at this unhappy accident? It is seldom the case that he can experience relief till the remaining roots are removed; and the facility of completing the operation is not unfrequently out of the power of the presumptuous operator.

When a tooth is slightly decayed, and exposed to the air, the patient is liable to take cold, if I may use the word, in the tooth; and in this case the jaws swell, the tooth appears

loose, and the roots are in a high state of inflammation. Now I would ask any professional man what he would accomplish in cutting off a tooth in this state? Would he reduce the inflammation? or, would he not be more likely to increase it?

The treatment, in a case like this, is simple, and almost universally salutary. In the first place, fill the tooth in question with gold; then scarify the gum in the region of the tooth, and allow it to bleed freely; lastly, brush the tooth and gums in a brisk and rough manner, and by so doing you harden the gum, and deaden that sensitiveness in the tooth before experienced.

If the nerve is exposed, it is as easily destroyed before, as after, cutting off the tooth, by merely placing in the cavity of the decayed tooth, a small piece of caustic. If this will have no effect, we must have recourse to extracting. Mr Fay admits that it is sometimes necessary to extract; and it will be seen that this is the point at which that practice must be followed.

An artificial grinder! a mere impossibility; no dentist will undertake to set them; or, if they do, they are worse than useless; for it is not possible to make them perform the office of mastication but for a very short period; then they will soon work loose, and you are compelled to take them out.

I have now only to speak of Mr Fay's last, and, apparently, most powerful, reason for amputating teeth: that is, the support they offer to the adjoining teeth. This is, in fact, the most plausible of all; but it is only necessary to say, that, provided the operation should succeed, those roots, if not obliged to be dug out, will, of themselves, very shortly drop from their sockets.

In relation to the curved and straight cutting forceps, for which Mr Hay has obtained the medal, I would beg leave to state that Dr Flagg, of Boston, was the inventor of

these articles; and some three years since made patterns in wood of the same, and obtained them from London; they are approved and lectured on by Dr Warren, of Boston, not indeed for the purpose of cutting off teeth, but in various other surgical operations, as in *exostosis*, a morbid enlargement, or hard tumor of a bone, &c. These forceps may be seen at my office by those who may feel interested in the subject. Forceps, for the purpose of extracting teeth perpendicularly, have been invented by a very ingenious mechanic in Boston, but as it compels us to make a fulcrum of the tooth anterior to that which is to be extracted, we are extremely likely to fracture, or otherwise injure a sound tooth; its inutility, it is hoped, will be sufficiently obvious. J. F. B. FLAGG.

From the Boston Daily Advertiser.

NEW SURGICAL OPERATION.

Mr HALE—I saw in the Advertiser of Friday last, a paragraph from a London paper, giving an account of a "New Surgical Operation," by Mr Fay, an American, for curing toothache without extracting the tooth, which consists in cutting off the carious crown of the tooth with a pair of sharp forceps,* and of leaving the sound roots in the jaw. This is stated to be a perfectly salutary and painless operation.

Real improvements in surgery are generally brought before the public

* A set of forceps exactly answering the description given of Mr Fay's were ordered by an eminent surgeon in this city more than two years ago, for the purpose of performing operations in the mouth and about the jaws, and in deep seated cases of diseased bone. They were made in London, by drawings sent for the purpose, which were taken from the rough instruments invented and used here in the early part of the year 1824.—They were not indeed for cutting off the teeth, for the teeth cannot be cut off as the other softer bones may be, but merely made to fracture and divide by the pressure of the forceps at any particular part. F. J.

in due season by the numerous journals which are issued for this purpose; but when communications on subjects of this nature are first presented to us through the medium of newspapers, they ought not to be received without much caution, particularly when, as in the present case, they are likely to lead to hazardous and mischievous experiments in a branch of surgery in which there is as much quackery as in any other.

"Every anatomist," even if he has not been in London, beside knowing that "there is in the middle of each tooth a little cavity in which the fine branches of nerves passing through the roots of the teeth are expanded," knows also that the exposure of this nervous expansion of the root of a tooth, will give as acute suffering as in this "little cavity." And every well informed surgeon and experienced dentist knows, that it is not merely by the exposure of this cavity by caries that the pain in the teeth is occasioned, but by the inflammation of the membrane by which the roots of the teeth are connected with their sockets; and that by cutting off the carious crown of a tooth with this cavity and its nervous expansion, he is more likely to leave the quivering and lacerated nerves hanging from the open channels in the roots, than to destroy or extract them by such an operation. He knows, also, that when "in a moment the upper part of the tooth snaps off," as in this "new surgical operation," it cannot "in an instant permanently relieve all pain," but that in most cases the unfortunate subject is obliged to draw his breath with torture, till the nerves shall be destroyed by some powerful caustic, or by the violence of an inflammation, which is most commonly followed by ulceration, and often by caries of the jaw. There are few, who have ever had the crown of a tooth cut off, as it frequently is, by the unskilful application of the key or forceps, who cannot bear solemn

testimony to the truth of these assertions.

It is not denied that the roots of teeth which are left in the jaw in this way, do in a few instances, after a considerable length of time, become comparatively easy, only giving pain occasionally; but in these cases there is a constant effort of nature to cast them out, and this is sooner or later effected according to circumstances. — They in most instances previously become troublesome, and have to be extracted; and their use, either in masticating the food, or in preserving the sockets of the other teeth, is never so great as to be worth considering, and seldom sufficient to counterbalance the troubles which attend them and the evils which are liable to occur.

It may be important here to add a remark in reference to Mr Fay's other improvement, for which, with that above mentioned, it is stated that he has "received the large silver medal from the Society of Arts," namely, his improved forceps for the perpendicular extraction of teeth.

There is a prevailing popular belief, that if the teeth could be drawn perpendicularly from their sockets, the operation would be more safe and less painful than by the common mode approved by the most skilful operators of the day. A knowledge of the existence of this opinion has enabled, and still continues to enable quacks and pretenders to entrap and torture those who are not too well informed. The opinion however is an erroneous one, and the principle a false one. Whatever instruments, therefore, are made to operate in a manner to effect this purpose, must be worse than useless, and all efforts to bring them into common use must be attended with unnecessary hazard and suffering; as has been fully proved by numerous ingenious efforts for the last half century, not a few of which have been made in our own country.

From Silliman's Journal.

NOTE ON THE PREPARATION AND USE OF
ALKALINE DIGESTIVE PASTILS, CON-
TAINING BICARBONATE OF SODA. BY
M. D'ARCET.

Having been obliged, three years ago, to make an almost daily use of pastils of magnesia, I was afraid that the frequent employment of this substance would contribute to favor the formation of urinary calculus, and I thought of substituting carbonate of soda. In 1822, I made a series of experiments, which gave me such good results that I decided, from that time, on taking no more magnesia for the correction of an impaired digestion, and from the month of September, in that year, I employed only pure carbonate of soda. These pastils instantly destroyed the acidity occasioned by bad digestion, and favored perfectly the functions of the stomach; but they had the inconvenience of being too strongly alkaline, and having a disagreeable taste. I nevertheless made use of them, with much success, till the middle of June, 1824, when I repaired, for the first time, to the waters of Vichy. I knew that these mineral waters were digestive, and I soon found that a glass, taken after a meal, was sufficient to promote digestion, and even to restore it when disturbed. Having verified the goodness of this remedy, during my first visit at Vichy, and knowing that the bicarbonate of soda is the active principle of these waters, and that this salt has a taste much less alkaline than that of carbonate of soda, I thought of substituting the former for the latter, in the pastils I made use of. I gave the receipt for these pastils to M. Regnauld, who began to offer them to the public in the month of January, 1825. The use of them having rapidly spread, and obtaining from them myself the best effects, I took the receipt to Vichy, in the month of June last. M. Batillar, apothecary of the thermal establishment, manufactured large quantities of

them, and he now prepares, daily, five kilogrammes, or 5000 pastils. The receipt has been communicated to those who have asked for it, and the alkaline digestive pastils, prepared with bicarbonate of soda, are found in the shops of the first apothecaries of Paris, Lyons, &c.

The following is the receipt, as I have given it: I invite the apothecaries, who may avail themselves of it, to vary it as they may think proper.

Take bicarbonate of soda, dry and pure, in fine powder, 5 grammes. Very white sugar, in fine powder, 95 grammes. Mucilage of gum adraganth,* prepared with water—q. s. essential oil of peppermint, pure and fresh, two or three drops.

The bicarbonate of soda and the sugar are to be put into a very dry bottle, and thoroughly shaken, so as to mix the powders well together. They are then poured out and well mixed with the gum mucilage and oil of peppermint on a marble slab, and converted into pastils or drops, so that after being dried in the air, or by a stove, each may weigh about a gramme. Having a slight attraction for moisture, they should be preserved in bottles well stopped, or kept in a dry place.

Note by the Translator.—By the advice of the discreet author of the above article, the carbonic acid disengaged from the fountains of Vichy, is employed in saturating the alkalies, and thus preparing, almost without expense, the bicarbonate of soda. Some of the best shops of Paris are now supplied with the bicarbonate from that quarter. The copious emision of gas from the waters of Ballston and Saratoga might easily be employed for the same purpose, and in all probability the alkaline pastils of D'Arcet be rendered as fashionable and useful there as at Vichy. But for the purpose of obtaining the alkali well charged with

carbonic acid, a common brewer's vat or fermenting tub, might answer as good a purpose, and be used as cheaply as a natural spring. A solution of the common carbonate of soda, suspended in a broad vessel over the fermenting liquors, would doubtless become thoroughly charged with the gaseous acid. Frequent agitation would greatly expedite it.

It is further observed by M. D'Arcet, that a glass of the water of Vichy, two decilitres, contains 1 gramme of bicarbonate of soda, equal to the quantity contained in 20 of the pastils. The patients at Vichy commonly take 5 glasses of water every morning, besides a bath during the day in the same water. Supposing,—which is not the case—that the water of the bath is not absorbed, it is certain that a drinker at Vichy, takes in a few hours as much bicarb. of soda as if he had taken 100 pastils in the same time; but the experience of many ages has proved that the waters of Vichy are salutary to the health. The physician of the place, M. Lucas, has never known that those of his patients who have returned the most frequently have ever been troubled with diseases of the urinary passages; and it is proved, on the contrary, that the use of the waters reestablishes the digestive functions, and reproduces in the system, an energy which has surpassed all expectation.

These considerations are advanced to prove the *harmlessness* of using incidentally, alkaline remedies, not taken fasting, but when an acid disengaged in the stomach is ready to neutralize the small quantities of alkali which the pastils contain.

Experience has shown that a feeble digestion may be easily remedied by taking only one or two of the pastils, and that it is seldom necessary to have recourse to a third, and that when the object is simply to facilitate the functions of the stomach, the pastils have many advantages over the water of Vichy, taken as it comes

* Tragacanth?—ED.

from the springs. Not only very painful indigestions, when they actually occur, may be remedied by these powders, but their occurrence may be prevented, by taking beforehand one or more of the pastils, and allowing the stomach to receive food, which, without this aid, would disturb its functions. The author states, that in his own case, the remedy has well established his digestive powers, and that he now seldom has recourse to the pastils, and can take, without their aid, food, which for two years past, he could scarcely have digested. In one instance which fell under his notice, a female, who had suffered for five hours, from a violent indigestion, was promptly relieved by taking a pastil every five minutes. The first she took afforded some relief, and eleven were sufficient completely to reestablish her digestion, although these eleven contained no more alkali than half a glass of the water of Vichy.

I will add, says M. D'Arcet, that in using these pastils, when one is fatigued with a slow and painful digestion, relief is more promptly obtained, than by employing pure or carbonated magnesia. The action they produce is so prompt and complete, that it appears purely chemical. He recommends the employment of them as soon as it is perceived that the stomach has become debilitated, for there is every advantage in adopting the remedy before the evil has become aggravated.—*Rev. Encycl. Jan. 1826.*

PHILOSOPHY OF SPEECH.

Mr James Maxwell, of Philadelphia, has in the press, and will shortly publish, a work entitled "PHILOSOPHY OF THE HUMAN VOICE, by JAMES RUSH, M. D. A notice of this forthcoming work has appeared in one or two of the papers, but not full enough to convey to the general reader an idea of its character. The subject is one which is calculated to interest not only physicians, but literary men

generally, especially those whose avocation consists in part in public speaking; and we understand that the manner in which it is treated, is entirely original.

From a gentleman who has devoted many years to studies of a similar character, and who has had an opportunity of inspecting the manuscript, we learn that Dr Rush has, among other things, done for Elocution what Guido did for Music. He has invented a scale by which the intonations of the human voice can be measured, both as regards degrees and quantity, and their proper adaptation to the expression of various passions and sentiments, easily and correctly ascertained. The work being stated to be original both in manner and matter, a complete idea of its character cannot, of course, be acquired without a perusal: and we know not how to communicate the impression we received from the gentleman who gave us the description but by a comparison with the familiar subject of music, which we have selected, only requesting the reader to bear in mind that whatever there is of difference between song and speech must be strictly noticed in a philosophical disquisition of the subject. As the components of speech are all, in the course of the work, resolved into their elements, a physiological analysis of the functions of the vocal and articulatory organs was necessary. This forms the basis of the work, and has been, as we are informed, made in strict accordance with the rules of inductive philosophy.—*Philadelphia Gazette.*

BREWING.

The London Mechanics' Magazine gives the following instruction for brewing "on a small scale."

"The art of brewing is exactly similar to the process of making tea. Put a handful of malt into a teapot, then fill it with water, the first time rather under boiling heat. After it has stood some time, pour off the li-

quor, just as you would tea, and fill up the pot again with boiling water; in a similar manner pour this off, and so go on filling up and pouring off, till the malt in the pot is tasteless, which will be the case when all the virtue is extracted. The liquor, or malt tea, thus extracted, must then be boiled with a few hops in it, and when it becomes cool enough, that is, about blood heat, add a little yeast to ferment it, and the thing is done. This is the whole art and process of brewing, and to brew a large quantity requires just the same mode of proceeding as it would to make a tea breakfast for a regiment of soldiers. A peck of malt and four ounces of hops will produce ten quarters of ale, better than any that can be purchased in London, and for which purpose a teakettle and two pan mugs are sufficient apparatus."

THE PHYSICIAN.

The physician is only the minister of nature; his duty is to follow her in her march, to aid her when she wavers, to rectify her when she wanders from her path. Without doubt, if nature sufficed in all cases, the science of medicine would be a useless one; but unfortunately there are a great number, in which all her efforts would be vain without the assistance of art. Nature does not possess the same energy in every individual; in some, it is originally weak and languishing, and in others, misery, labor, the excess and the abuse of life have destroyed its power of resistance. For some persons, the aid of medicine is indispensable when they fall sick; and often is insufficient, because nature not seconding its efforts, it combats alone against the disease.

There exists then in us, as well as in all living beings, an interior power which resists destruction, and which exerts a degree of force, every time that life is menaced. It is this active force which physiologists have designated *Nature*. We have said

that its efforts were sometimes sufficient to overcome disease, that at other times they were too weak; in short, that it had its wanderings and its deviations. In all these cases the eye of the physician is necessary to ascertain when it is needful to repress a too powerful reaction, or when it is proper to aid a preservative effort. This is his duty; but in order to perform it with success, what knowledge has he to acquire, what laziness and prejudices to conquer! Youth, pleasures, health, fortune, are all sacrificed to the study of this science, and no person honors him for it;—each one believes himself sufficiently enlightened to give advice to the physician; everybody knows how to cure, and the lowest nurse confidently blames or approves the conduct of the man of art, in cases even where an association of physicians only would be competent to decide.

The great number of diseases which exist, their complication and their varieties, are immense. The manner of treating them, the knowledge of remedies, that of their action; the study of the human body, of the laws which govern it; the Sciences which are necessarily connected with Medicine, &c., all these require, on the part of him who embraces this profession, native talents and profound study, without which this science becomes more prejudicial than serviceable to humanity. How is it, then, that every one believes himself capable of reasoning on a science, for the study of which, says Hippocrates, life is too short? How can we conceive that there are persons so careless as to dare to trust their lives to ignorant persons, who have pursued no other study than that of duping, and whose only science consists in deceiving by making promises which they do not fulfil. But that which is still more difficult to conceive, is, that there can be persons sufficiently imprudent to use remedies which they do not under-

stand and to treat diseases which they know no better. This, however, is what we every day see, and which the examples of misfortune which are continually resulting from it, do not prevent. How many persons have been the victims of medical ignorance, by not having been willing to submit themselves to the care of qualified physicians! How many persons have died who would have lived if they had been left to the efforts of nature, instead of opposing them by a treatment much more grievous for the patient than the disease itself!—*L'Ami de la Santé.*

A WAY TO GET BUSINESS.

Volatile. Your humble servant, sir, walk in sir, sit down, sir, bringing a chair. My master will wait on you in a moment, Sir, he's busy despatching some patients, Sir. I'll tell him you are here, sir. Be back in a twinkling, sir.

Sinclair. No, no, I will wait till he is done, I wish to consult him about —

Vol. Right, sir, you could not have applied to a more able physician. My master is a man that understands physic as fundamentally as I do my mother tongue, sir.

Sin. He appears to have an able advocate in you.

Vol. I do not say this, sir, because he is my master; but 'tis really a pleasure to be his patient, and I should rather die by his medicines, than be cured by those of any other; for whatever happens, a man may be certain that he has been regularly treated; and should he die under the operation, his heirs would have nothing to reproach him for.

Sin. That's a mighty comfort to a dying man.

Vol. To be sure, sir, who would not wish to die methodically? Besides, he is not one of those doctors who husband the disease of their patients. He loves to despatch busi-

ness, and if they are to die, he lends them a helping hand.

Sin. There's nothing like despatch in business.

Vol. That's true, sir. What is the use of so much hemming and hawking, and beating round the bush? I like to know the long and short of a distemper at once.

Sin. Right, undoubtedly.

Vol. Right! Why there were three of my children, whose illness he did me the honor to take care of, who all died in less than four days, when in another's hands they would have languished three months.

Enter Doctor.

Vol. Sir, this gentleman is desirous of consulting —

Dr. I perceive it, sir; he is a dying man. Do you eat well, sir?

Sin. Eat! yes, sir, perfectly well.

Dr. Bad, very bad; the epigastric region must be shockingly disordered. How do you drink, sir?

Sin. Nobody drinks better, sir.

Dr. So much the worse. The great appetition of frigid and humid, is an indication of the great heat and aridity within. Do you sleep soundly?

Sin. Yes, when I've supped heartily.

Dr. This indicates a dreadful torpidity of the system; and, sir, I pronounce you a dead man. After considering the diagnostic and prognostic systems, I pronounce you attacked, affected, possessed, and disordered by that species of mania termed—Hypochondria.

Vol. Undoubtedly, sir. My master never mistakes, sir.

Dr. But for an incontestable diagnostic you may perceive his distempered ratiocination, and other pathognomic symptoms of this disorder.

Vol. What will you order him, sir?

Dr. First, a dozen purges.

Vol. But should these have no effect?

Dr. We shall then know the disease does not proceed from humors.

Vol. What shall we try next, sir?

Dr. Bleeding, ten or fifteen times, twice a day.

Vol. If he grows worse and worse, what then?

Dr. It will prove the disease is not in the blood.

Vol. What application would you then recommend?

Dr. My infallible sudorific. Sweat him off five pounds a day, and the case cannot long remain doubtful.

Vol. I congratulate the gentleman on falling into your hands, sir. He must consider himself happy in having his senses disordered, that he may experience the efficacy and gentleness of the remedies you have proposed.

Sin. What does all this mean, gentlemen? I do not understand your gibberish and nonsense.

Dr. Such injurious language is a diagnostic we wanted to confirm our opinion of his distemper.

Sin. Are you crazy, gentlemen? Spits in his hand and raises his cane.

Dr. Another diagnostic, frequent sputation.

Sin. You had better be done, and make off.

Dr. Another diagnostic! Anxiety to change place. We will fix you, sir. Your disease—

Sin. I have no disease, sir.

Dr. A bad symptom, when a patient is insensible of his illness.

Sin. I am well, sir, I assure you.

Dr. We know best how that is, sir. We physicians see through your constitution at once.

Sin. You are then a physician, sir?

Vol. Yes, sir, this is my master, sir, the celebrated Dr. Pumpwater, sir, the enemy of human diseases, sir.

Sin. Who has travelled over the country?

Dr. The same, sir.

Sin. I am happy to hear it, gentlemen. I have long been in search of you, and have a warrant for your apprehension, on an indictment for vagrancy. A lucky mistake has enabled me to become a useful witness. You will please to follow your patient to the workhouse.

To the Editor of the Baltimore Patriot.

SIR, As the season for WET FEET and their attendant consequences is approaching, you are desired to publish the following recipe for rendering boots and shoes water proof, for the public good:

Take Gum Elastic, commonly called Indian Rubber, cut into fine shreds, and put about one ounce of it into half a pint of Seneka Oil, or petroleum.—Let the mixture stand about a week, at the end of which time the gum will be dissolved, and a thick elastic varnish formed, which may be applied to the boots or shoes with a brush, and will be absorbed by the leather—the varnish to be applied once a day till the leather is saturated, when the shoes will be perfectly water proof, and rendered soft and easy to the feet. If, in the preparation of leather, this varnish was used instead of common tanner's oil, the object would be more perfectly attained. Seneka oil is produced in our country in great abundance, and costs little, if any more than tanner's oil, and the gum elastic is very cheap. I made the discovery, that gum elastic may be dissolved in Seneka oil, about a year since, and now publish it *pro bono publico*.

GIDEON B. SMITH.

A translation of La Beaumé's historical view of Galvanism, with observations on its chemical properties, and medical efficacy in chronic diseases is in the press.

SONG OF THE ANGEL.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

Arrayed in clouds of golden light,
More bright than Heaven's resplendent bow,
Jehovah's angel came by night,
To bless the sleeping world below!

How soft the music of his tongue!
How sweet the hallowed strains he sung!

"Goodwill, henceforth to man be given;
The light of glory beams on earth;
Let angels tune the harps of heaven,
And saints below rejoice with mirth:
On Bethlehem's plains the shepherds sing,
And Judah's children hail their King!"

BOSTON, TUESDAY, NOV. 27, 1826.

THE TEETH.

It is reported in many of our newspapers, that an American Dentist in London has invented a new instrument, and is performing a *new and useful* operation on diseased teeth; but as serious doubts of the truth of all this hangs over the subject, we are pleased to see some attention paid to the English account by gentlemen in this quarter. For ourselves, we doubt very much whether Mr Fay will do himself any credit, or the public any service, by his pretension. The operator professes to cure the toothache by the cutting off of the tooth by a pair of forceps, made for the purpose.

The questions to be settled in the case seem to be—are the instrument and operation new, and are they useful? All this novelty and merit are implied, or asserted in London, and denied in New England. While this state of doubt and controversy exists, any man in half an hour can learn enough of the structure, vital properties and morbid states of the teeth, to know that breaking off a tooth at a certain point, by the pressure of the forceps, will be far from a certain cure for toothache; for the seat of the disease and of pain may be altogether below the line of division, when no alleviation of suffering will follow the operation.

Let us suppose again that the diseased part of the tooth, and with it the pain, are removed by the operation, and that the remaining portion of nerve below is left uncovered, exposed to the action of air, particles

of food, &c. The almost necessary result of the operation will now be such a degree of irritation, inflammation, and distress, as will be far more intolerable than the toothache which the operation was to have removed, and which will compel the sufferer to have the residue of the tooth extracted. Any dentist can snap off a tooth in this way, but it often requires one of more ability and judgment to remove the pain and suffering which the operation occasions. By the action of the forceps, the fang of the tooth, below the point of separation, may be split into several pieces, each of which must be taken out before the patient can sleep or eat. We need not go from home to learn all this, for these causes and effects, this malpractice and its painful consequences, are not unfrequently seen, and done and suffered in this city, before the eyes of our best dentists who are called on to relieve those persons who have had their teeth cut off, the operator not being able to obviate the painful effects of his own agency.

TO REVIVE OLD WRITING.

Boil gallnuts in wine, then with a sponge dipped in the liquid wipe over the lines of the old writing, and all letters will again appear distinctly visible. This should not be attempted with documents the originals of which must be preserved, as it has a tendency to destroy the material, but only with such as are to be copied when legible.

The operation of crushing the stone in the bladder was performed at the Hotel Dieu in Paris, on the 23d of September, in the presence of Baron Dupuytren, several Physicians, and all the pupils of the Medi-

cal School. The operation was completely successful, as it was performed with great facility, and gave so little pain to the patient that he betrayed a disposition to fall asleep.

SOLVENT FOR PUTTY.

To remove panes of old glass from sashes, spread with a small brush, a little nitric or muriatic acid over the putty, and it will soon become soft, and can be removed without injury, either to the glass or frame.

WENS.

The Raleigh Register repeats the declaration, which is attested by certificates, that a cloth saturated with a solution of common salt, applied to wens will certainly remove them.

The Dictionary must be postponed till next week, from the present paucity of strange words.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

JUST published in Boston, and for sale by Hilliard, Gray & Co., THE FRIEND TO HEALTH, being a selection of valuable Truths relating to the Preservation of Health, from the works of Thacher, Thompson, Salzmann, &c. 1 vol. 12mo. pp. 107.

AVAPOR or SULPHUR BATH can be had at any proper hour of the day, at 3, Central Court. The proper hours are before breakfast, dinner, and tea. The best time is between 11 and 2 o'clock.

CHARLES WHITE,

Corner of Marlboro' and Winter Streets,

HAS received by the late arrivals from Europe, a full assortment of DRUGS, MEDICINES, and SURGEONS' INSTRUMENTS—among the Instruments are Syringes for removing poison from the stomach—Amputating, Trepanning, Ophthalmia, Dentist, Pocket, Dissecting, and Midwifery Instruments—Cranotomy, Tooth, Dressing and Dissecting Forceps—

Seton Needles, Trocars, Bistories, Lancets, Pins for Hair lips, &c.

Strict personal attendance paid to Physicians' Prescriptions, and to the delivery of Family Medicines.

Medicine delivered at any hour in the night.

ATHENEUM :

OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.
FOR DECEMBER 1,

WILL be published on Friday next, by John Cotton, 184 Washington-Street, corner of Franklin-Street.

CONTENTS.—A Quiet Gentlewoman—Haroun, the Lonely Man of Shiraz—Roman Girl's Song—Autobiography of Mansie Wauch, Tailor. Anent Mungo Glen—The Broken Leg—Florence Willesden. A Tale of Real Life—Four Autumnal Sonnets, Boyhood Thoughts, Youthful Memories, Mature Realities, Regrets and Anticipations—Recollections of Turkey—Warfare of the Fourteenth Century—Punishment of Cowardice—Humours of Donnybrook Fair.

TO PHYSICIANS.

IN preparation and will be published as soon as the necessary arrangements are completed.

The American Journal of Foreign Medicine, to consist of such selections from the periodical works on Medicine, published in Europe as are of *practical utility*.

The American Journal will be edited by an Association of Physicians in this city, and rejecting speculative discussions, will contain the spirit of such improvements made abroad in the Medical Sciences as are likely to be useful in *actual practice*. It is designed therefore exclusively for professional men.

A number, of not less than forty pages, on fine paper and in fair type will be issued every month. Price to subscribers four dollars per annum.

Instead of the enormous expense of subscribing for, and procuring the numerous Medical Journals of England, France, Switzerland, Germany, and Italy, a cheap and compendious method of learning their most valuable contents is here offered to the American Faculty; and those who wish to avail themselves of the work will forward their names before the 15th November inst. to HILLIARD, GRAY & CO.

N. B.—All communications must be *post paid*.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St., to whom all communications must be addressed (*post-paid*).—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1826.

NO. 29.

ON THE TEETH.

To the Ed. of the Med. Intelligencer.

SIR, The great degree of suffering which attends the diseases of the teeth, renders it peculiarly desirable that a knowledge of the causes which are most likely to produce these diseases, should be generally possessed by an enlightened community ; and it is equally important that all false prejudices and erroneous views relating to a subject of such general concern, should be exposed and corrected. With this view, I propose to send you occasionally a few remarks which will serve in a considerable degree to answer the common and various questions concerning the teeth, both in their healthy and diseased state.

There is a very common impression, not only in the minds of foreigners, but of our own people, with regard to our climate, which often gives rise to this question : *Is not our climate unfavorable to good teeth?* I believe there are few facts or substantial arguments that can be furnished which will warrant an affirmative answer

to this question. But that the sudden and extraordinary changes of temperature for which our climate is remarkable, is peculiarly unfavorable to *bad teeth*, is abundantly evident from the complaints of adult foreigners who have spent the earlier part of life in less variable climates. It is not uncommon for such persons, coming either from warmer or colder regions, to call on a dentist and tell him, that when they came to this country, only a few months before, perhaps, they had not a defective tooth; but now, they are frequently afflicted with pain in consequence of their rapid decay. Generally, however, in these cases, a single glance at the teeth convinces the dentist that they must have been decaying for several years; but the absence of pain has caused this to be overlooked by the individual till frequent exposure to great and sudden changes of temperature has produced inflammation, and consequent suffering.

The observations of celebrated men, and authors who have given us the most valua-

ble information on the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the teeth, tend sufficiently to show that the teeth are a part of the human structure which is very commonly predisposed to early decay; that this is the case in all countries and climates, with very little observable difference among the individuals of civilized society. But it is remarkable, that among uncivilized tribes, who live by hunting, fishing, or on the simple fruits of the earth, those of great age are found with more perfect sets of teeth, both with regard to their number and soundness, than are usually found in the aged inhabitants of towns and cities. It is also remarkable, that in most of the skulls of savages which have been dug from their ancient burying places, or otherwise obtained, bearing every other mark of great age, the teeth are found perfect, though commonly much worn by mastication.

It is by no means philosophical to conclude that a climate which will favor the formation of a firm, vigorous, and healthy frame of body, due regard being paid to diet, exercise, and the habits of life, should at the same time be productive of disease in any particular organ; that a cause which in its influence on the human constitution, tends so much and so evidently to the production of

a perfect whole, should still be chargeable with the defect of a part.

If our climate, more than others, is to be considered as conducive to scrofula, phthisis, epilepsy, gout and palsy, then may it with equal propriety be considered as conducive to the diseases of the teeth. But the most productive causes of all these, namely, improper diet, neglect of exercise, and injurious habits, are overlooked, and blame is attached to a source of disease which scarcely exists.

Another inquiry which is very often made in relation to this subject is, *Are diseases of the teeth hereditary?* Of this there is left no reason to doubt. It is often observable both in the first and second sets of teeth, that they are imperfect in their formation, and carious or otherwise diseased as soon as they pass through the gum. In a greater number of cases, however, they appear perfect in their formation, and sound, for a certain length of time; they are then found to be carious in the centre and softer parts, and the defect gradually increases till they crumble to pieces by the pressure of mastication.

The same kinds of defect or disease are very often observed to affect the teeth of numerous individuals of the same family, appearing not only in

corresponding teeth of different sets, but in corresponding portions of the teeth, and commencing at nearly the same age in each. These cases are often so remarkably uniform in their occurrence, that a skilful dentist, after he has examined the teeth of one or two of the older children of a family, is enabled to detect disease in the teeth of the younger, before it has so far advanced as to be discernible by any other person, and afterward to predict, with great certainty, what will be the event with regard to the teeth of the others, and thus put parents on their guard to prevent the insidious effects of caries.

Can anything be done to prevent the ravages of the constitutional diseases of the teeth? There are few cases of so hopeless a nature as not to permit something to be done to diminish the sufferings, and to prevent the losses which are occasioned by a constitutional decay of the teeth. This is to be done, first, by attending, even in early infancy, to the food, in providing a suitable nurse, and taking care that the child be not weaned too young, or at a wrong season of the year; by early exposing infants to the ordinary changes of the atmosphere and temperature to which adults are accustomed; by the occasional and appropriate use of the

warm and cold bath, friction of the body and limbs; and by daily exercise and motion suitable to the age of the child. Secondly, by every kind of care which can be given by a parent or nurse to the infant teeth, or first set, and which ought to be exercised by every child after the second set have so far advanced as to require the use of a brush, &c. to keep them in the state which decency and cleanliness and soundness demand. And lastly, by the seasonable and appropriate operation of a skilful dentist, on the teeth in which disease shall have commenced. More particular directions on these points will be given in some future remarks.

As the first suffering which is caused by the teeth is that which attends what is called their *cutting*, their advancement through the upper part of the sockets and gums, and as the period at which this is going on, namely, from the sixth or seventh, to the twentieth or twentyfourth month, is often a critical one with infants, the first question of moment is, *What should be done to prevent, as much as may be, the evil effects of dentition?* It is not merely from irritation about the teeth or gums, that *teething children* suffer, but from many other complaints which call for the sympathy and care of the mother, and

demand the attention and skill of a physician. Everything which will prevent such sufferings in any degree, or alleviate them when they unavoidably occur, deserves the most serious attention. After the directions given above have been observed, there is no circumstance which demands more consideration than that of weaning. The judicious management of this affair will do more than anything else to ward off the evils to which children are exposed during the period of dentition, and even those from which they often suffer afterwards in consequence of pain and sickness at this time. It is a matter which has been too lightly regarded. It is one which is commonly made to yield more to the present wishes and convenience of the mother, or to pecuniary interest, than to the immediate comfort and future health and happiness of the child. Early weaning has been too often followed by evil consequence to be considered a prudent measure. The stage of dentition has been regarded by the best medical authors as the most important circumstance, and that by which we should be principally governed in determining the time of weaning. Baume, a celebrated French author, has stated, in a work on this subject,*

that "a child should not be weaned till after the appearance of the four first double teeth," commonly called by nurses the *stomach teeth*. Duval, the author of a valuable work on the teeth,† observes that "milk is the only proper nourishment for the infant, so long as it has no teeth, and that we must conclude that it ought not to be entirely deprived of this fluid till it has all the instruments necessary to masticate solid aliment. This principle," he adds, "is incontestable; and it may be observed that whenever it is disregarded, many infants are made to suffer, and dentition is rendered more difficult. It is always safest to wait till the first teeth are cut."

In the first volume of the New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery, in some remarks on *the morbid effects of dentition* by James Jackson, M. D., it is given as his opinion, that "children are benefited by living principally on the breast for twelve months; their vigor is evidently impaired in almost all cases, when they are nursed less than nine months. The safest period of the year for weaning is from the middle of October to the middle of March; provided they are not weaned under ten months after December,

* *Le Dentiste de la Jeunesse*, pp. 52. 53, Atkinson's Translation.

under eleven after January, nor under twelve after February. Children who are weaned at the age of twelve months in March are ordinarily safe; those who are weaned at this age in April are less so, one half of them perhaps suffering severely in the subsequent summer or autumn. In May the danger increases; and in the four subsequent months, if a child of any age be weaned, it will in most cases be very sick before the middle of October ensuing. The disease does not immediately follow the weaning; though in many cases the diarrhoea of teething children ensues at once. But the instances in which children who are weaned between May and October, escape severe cholera infantum, are extremely rare indeed."

A SUBSCRIBER.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE MIND ON
THE BODY.

He who, in the study of the treatment of the human frame, overlooks the intellectual part of it, cannot but entertain very incorrect notions of its nature, and fall into gross and sometimes fatal blunders in the means which he adopts for its regulation or repair. Whilst he is directing his purblind skill to remove or relieve some more obvious and superficial symptom, the worm of mental malady may be gnawing in-

wardly and undetected at the root of the constitution. He may be in a situation like that of a surgeon, who at the time that he is occupied in tying up one artery, is not aware that his patient is bleeding to death at another.—Intellect is not omnipotent; but its actual power over the organized matter to which it is attached, is much greater than is usually imagined. The anatomy of the MIND, therefore, should be learnt, as well as that of the body; the study of the constitution in general, and its peculiarities, or what may be technically called its idiosyncrasies, in any individual case, ought to be regarded as one of the most essential branches of a medical education.

The savage, the rustic, the mechanical drudge, and the infant whose faculties have not had time to unfold themselves, or which, to make use of physiological language, have not yet been *secreted*, may, for the most part, be regarded as machines, regulated principally by physical agents. But man, matured, civilized, and by due culture raised to his proper level in the scale of being, partakes more of a moral than of an animal character, and is in consequence to be worked on by remedies that apply themselves to his imagination, his passions, or his judgment, still more than by those that are

directed immediately to the parts and functions of his material organization. Pharmacy is but a small part of physic; medical cannot be separated from moral science without reciprocal and essential mutilation.

Such observations are more particularly apt to occur to one whose station of professional experience is established in the midst of an intellectual, commercial, and voluptuous metropolis, the inhabitants of which exist in a state of more exalted excitement and irritative perturbation, than can be occasioned by the comparatively monotonous circumstances of rural or provincial existence. Over a still and waveless lake, a boat may move along steadily and securely, with scarcely any degree of skill or caution in the pilot who conducts it; whereas on the agitated and uncertain ocean, it requires an extraordinary degree of dexterity and science to insure the safety of the vessel, and the proper and regular direction of its destined course. "Thus the practice of medicine is reduced to a few simple rules, in the country, and in hospitals; but it is obliged to multiply, to vary, and to combine its resources, when applied to men of letters, to artists, and to all persons whose lives are not

devoted to mere manual labor."*

The class of persons whose lives are devoted to mere manual labor, especially the more indigent part of them, are, to a certain extent, distinguished by the character of their diseases, as well as that of their other evils. They differ from the higher orders, less perhaps in the actual quantity, than in the glaring and obtrusive color of their calamities.

There is no person, perhaps, who is apt to form so low an estimate of the value of human existence, as a medical man practising among the poor, especially among the poor of a great city. But it is not impossible that he may exaggerate the excess of their sufferings, by combining, as it is natural for him to do, their external state, with those feelings which he has acquired from very different circumstances and education. As the horrors of the grave affect only the living, so the miseries of poverty exist principally, perhaps, in the imagination of the affluent. The labor of the poor man relieves him at least from the burden of fashionable ennui: and the constant pressure of physical inconveniences, from the more elegant, but surely not less intolerable distresses

* Coup d'oeil sur les Révoltes, et sur le Réformé de la Médecine.

P. J. G. Cubanis.

of a refined and romantic sensibility. Even those superior intellectual advantages of education, to which the more opulent are almost exclusively admitted, may, in some cases, open only new avenues to sorrow. The mind, in proportion as it is expanded, exposes a larger surface to impression.

Dr. J. Reid, of London.

For the Medical Intelligencer.
EPILEPSY.

MR. EDITOR, Sometime in June I communicated for your paper a case of epilepsy which had been cured by the application of the ointment of Tar-tarized Antimony over the surface of the head. I have since that time given the same remedy a fair trial, in the case of a youth of about twelve years of age. Two days before using the ointment, I gave him ten grains of calomel, and to assist its action, an infusion of spigelia and senna; this evacuated the intestines well. I then began with the ointment, and applied it twice a day for the first four days, in which time there took place a full and complete eruption; I then used it daily for twelve days, after which I used it at irregular periods so as to prevent too sudden a healing of the part. He lived very abstemiously during the whole time, mostly on a vegetable diet, using moderate exercise. This is the whole course of treatment, and he is now in as good a state of health as any one. He had no paroxysm of the disease after the eruption was fully raised.

Respectfully, &c.

JOS. AUG. BEALL.

Piscataway, Md. Nov. 1826.

NEARSIGHTEDNESS.

The following remarks on this very general malady formed a part of a lecture on diseases of the eye

by Mr Lawrence, one of the Surgeons of St. Bartholomew's hospital, and of the Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye.

"There are two defects of vision not depending on the state of the optic nerve, but on the refractive powers of the eye. They are produced by certain configurations of the transparent media, through which the light passes, and happen in conformity to the general laws of optics. The rays of light are either collected too soon, brought together before they reach the bottom of the eye, rendering the person myopic, or nearsighted; or they are not collected in the proper place, the focus in which they would meet being behind the situation of the optic nerve, thus rendering the person presbyopic, or farsighted. These kinds of sight are merely consequent on some circumstances in the transparent media of the eye, which, in all other respects is perfectly natural. Now the eye, being in a great part of its functions a mechanical instrument, must be subjected to mechanical laws, and we find that a given configuration of the transparent media, a certain relation of them to each other, and their position at a determinate distance from the retina, are necessary to the formation of a distinct picture, on this nervous expansion. There is a certain distance from the eye which is called the point of distinct vision; the latter therefore varies in different persons, and is generally different in the two eyes of the same individual. Objects are not so distinctly seen when moved nearer to or further from the eye than this point. In ordinary wellconstructed eyes, the distance ranges from about fifteen to twenty inches. It must be observed that there are peculiarly strong eyes which can see distinctly beyond these limits on either side. Persons who are obliged to hold objects closer to the eye than the distance already mentioned are called myopic, or nearsighted. An individ-

ual who is myopic holds a book for reading, or any other thing he may wish to examine minutely, much nearer to the eye than others; he cannot distinguish the countenances of performers on the stage, nor the subject of a picture when placed a few feet above his head; he cannot read the inscriptions on doors or houses, nor recognize persons across the street; if he goes into a large room in which there are many persons, he cannot readily distinguish those he knows. The cause of this, I have already said, is the transparent media of the eye; probably there is an original difference in the configuration or in the density of these media, or in the condition of their surfaces. It may be a question whether this state of the eye depends on the habits of the individual. I am inclined to suppose that the habitual mode of applying the organ may have some influence. In persons of a literary and studious character, who employ their eyes much in reading or writing, and others who are constantly occupied on minute objects near the eyes, you may observe that the person is near-sighted.

"I remember once attending a sale of books at which I was struck with the number of persons wearing spectacles: having counted them, I found that there were three and twenty gentlemen in the room, and that twelve of the number wore spectacles. Mr Ware took the trouble to inquire into the subject, and found, on consulting the surgeons of the different regiments of Guards in and about London, at that time amounting to 10,000, that nearsightedness was almost unknown among them—not six recruits rejected on this account in twenty years. He then made some comparative inquiries of the heads of the Colleges at Oxford and Cambridge, and found nearsightedness very prevalent in all these institutions. In one particular instance, where the society consisted of 127

members, 32 either wore spectacles or used handglasses. From these facts, together with the wellknown farsightedness of sailors and country people, we may infer that the habitual mode of employing the eyes has decided influence in rendering them myopic or presbyopic. Nearsightedness is not observed early in life; you never see persons trying to use glasses till towards the age of fourteen, or from this to eighteen. The defect may exist previously without being noticed, as such young subjects do not attend minutely to the state of their sight, or compare accurately their own vision with that of others. The only mode of remedying nearsightedness is the use of concave glasses; the defect is caused by too great a refractive power, and we must have recourse to artificial measures for lessening it. Our object is to enable the nearsighted to see distant things: the defect under which they labor, does not interfere with the vision of matters brought near to the eye; indeed, the nearsighted enjoy very distinct vision of near objects, and this circumstance has given rise to the notion that their eyes are very strong. In order to select the proper glass, the person must try several, and choose that with which he can see a distant object the best: if this be accomplished without any sense of painful or uneasy exertion in the eye, the glass which will enable him to do so, is that which he should choose. He will probably find that with a glass rather more concave, for instance, of the next number to that which he has chosen, he can see still more clearly, but that after looking through it a short time, the eye feels strained and fatigued: he should not allow the slight advantage in point of vision to induce him to expose the eye to an influence that will be very injurious. From the use, under proper precautions, of such concave glasses as will rectify the error in the refractive power of the eye, the nearsighted

person need not apprehend any injury to the eye: indeed, the easy exercise of vision with the requisite optical aid, seems to me less hurtful than the straining and efforts to do without them. As there seems to be some reason for concluding that the optical powers of the eye accommodate themselves to the circumstances under which vision is habitually exercised, I should recommend nearsighted persons not to wear spectacles constantly, but only to use them on occasions when they more particularly require such assistance. When they have been worn for a considerable time, the person does not at first see so well on leaving them off as he did before; but this is only temporary. If spectacles be chosen in the manner I have described, and be worn only occasionally, there is no fear of the eyes becoming more nearsighted, so as gradually to require deeper glasses. I have used nearsighted spectacles for twentyfive years, but my eyes are not more nearsighted than at first. The eye in the progress of age becomes presbyopic, and it might be supposed that this natural change in the organ would remedy the excess of refractive power in the nearsighted, and enable them to dispense with their concave glasses; but this is not the case, the nearsighted continue so in old age. Neither is there any ground for the notion that near sight is strong sight. The opposite state of the eye is presbyopia or farsightedness—the former word being derived from *presbus*, an old man, because this state of the eye is observed in advancing age, and is most strongly marked in old persons. The eyes undergo certain changes in age, which have the effect of diminishing their refractive powers, so that the rays of light are not brought into their focus soon enough: the focus of such rays would be formed behind the retina. This is the opposite state to that which we have just been considering. Persons after fifty, and

sometimes before this age, generally find that they cannot distinguish near objects so well as they have been accustomed to do. They find it difficult to read small print or writing, to cut a pen or pencil, or to do anything that requires a clear near sight. Of course you are aware that the rays of light are more divergent the nearer the object is to the eye, and the further it is, the more do they approach to the parallel direction; consequently a greater refractive power is necessary in the former than in the latter case. Farsighted persons can see distant inscriptions, or distinguish the hour by a distant church clock, when they cannot read a common print held in their own hands, or see the figures and hands of a watch. This state of the organ must be remedied by the use of a convex glass, which, bringing together the divergent rays proceeding from near objects, remedies the deficient refractive powers of the eye. The glasses must be chosen under the same restrictions as I have mentioned in the former case, and must enable a person to see without straining or fatiguing the organ, and should only be worn for reading, writing, or the examination of near objects. This being a defective state of vision depending on age, it gradually increases, and therefore requires a proportionate increase in the power of the glasses employed.

A preference is generally given to very clear glass, or what are termed pebbles; but on nervous subjects they often fatigue the eyes by an apparent stimulating effect on the optic nerve. Some oculists, therefore, prefer the glasses with a slight blue or green tinge. We have heard some nervous subjects complain of the glare of polished metallic frames, and others of an unpleasant sensation in the nerves of the face, and even of the teeth, which the use of metallic frames, either silver, gold, or copper produced. Having, in fact, experienced these effects from me-

talic frames, we have used those made of tortoiseshell.

London Gazette of Health.

TO PRESERVE GRAIN.

The reason why a people who live chiefly on potatoes are subject, like the Irish, to severe vicissitudes of famine, and of momentary plenty, is, that the crop will scarcely keep from harvest to harvest, and there is no means of preserving it so as to make the exuberance of one season compensate the deficiency of another. In this point of view, wheat and grains of all kinds, which can be kept for two or three years, are much the most valuable articles of food. Whatever serves, therefore, to preserve grain in a state of perfection, tends to equalize the quantity of food which can be obtained every year, and thus to relieve society from the alternate vicissitudes which the seasons bring, of dearth and plenty. There are also, probably, few of our readers who have not seen those immense granaries on the borders of the Thames, in which, when grain is stored up, it has to be frequently moved and turned, at a considerable expense, to preserve it. Under these points of view, it appears of some importance to know how to preserve grain in the greatest perfection, and at the least expense. In many parts of the Continent, this is done by depositing it in holes constructed in the earth for this purpose; and this has always been done on the idea that if air and moisture could be completely excluded, the grain might be preserved for any length of time. It has, in fact, long been known that grain or flour so stowed in casks as to be perfectly air tight, has been preserved for years unaltered. Under the influence of this same idea, in 1819, the Count Dejean, according to the *Annales de Chimie*, caused some casks to be made, which were covered with lead, and into which grain of different kinds, properly dried, was

put, and then the casks were hermetically sealed. They were opened at the end of three years, and the grain was found to be in a perfect state of preservation. As grain in this state sustains no loss, and requires no attention, it is supposed that the expense of the casks and of the lead will not be equal to the cost of preserving grain not so guarded. There can be no doubt of the accuracy of the principle on which this process proceeds; and as little doubt, we believe, that in this country it might be brought into practice by some still cheaper method than that recommended by Count Dejean.

The Chemist.

EASY WAY OF BREAKING GLASS IN ANY DIRECTION.

Dip a piece of worsted thread into spirit of turpentine, and put it round the glass in the direction you require it to be broken, then set fire to the thread, and the glass will break in the direction of the thread; or apply a red hot small wire round the glass, and if it does not crack immediately, throw cold water on it, and the desired effect will be accomplished. This is a very useful method for chemists, for broken glass may, by this means, be rendered serviceable to the laboratory. The explanation of this is as follows:—

By the application of heat to glass, as to other bodies, the part heated expands; and as glass transmits heat but slowly, the parts to which heat is applied expand faster than the other parts, and thus separate from them, or the glass cracks. In domestic economy, a knowledge of this simple fact is of considerable importance.—*Masonic Mirror.*

TREATMENT OF INFANTS.

Rooms inhabited by Infants.—Manner of holding them—Of giving them fresh Air.

The room inhabited by an infant should, if possible, be neither small nor low: it should have a good chim-

ney, not liable to smoke, and should be kept particularly clean. No foul linen, dirty vessels, or remains of food should be left in it; nor should any persons sleep in it, except those necessary to attend on the child. The candles burnt in a nursery should be particularly free from bad smells, and the nightlight as small as possible. When the bedroom is washed, the child should be removed into another for the night; unless in the heat of summer, when, by having the floor washed with boiling water early in the morning, and the windows left open for several hours, it will, probably, be quite dry before evening. There is nothing more necessary to guard against than dampness, which has occasioned the deaths of many infants. When children are not accustomed to it, it gives them cold; and when they are so used to it as not to be affected in this manner, it often produces still worse consequences. The overcleanliness of washing rooms, in bad weather, where children are obliged to sleep, has often done irreparable injury.

The manner of holding a young child is a matter of no small importance, as the foundation of maladies depending on the internal structure may be laid within the first weeks of its existence; and some careless or awkward mode of handling it, at this time, may be the occasion of future disease or deformity. By being held always on the same arm, an infant may easily be made crooked; by always being put to sleep on the same side, a similar effect may be produced; but these are trifling in comparison with the harm which may be done by making a child sit up before its neck is strong enough to support the weight of its head. When infants are robust and wellproportioned, they may perhaps escape injury, notwithstanding the manner in which many nurses choose to hold them sitting up before they are able to keep their heads erect; but if a child happens to have the head a little too

heavy, or the spine a little too weak, it is impossible to calculate the extent of evil which may be produced by a foolish attempt to force it too soon into the most unnatural and unwholesome posture to which the human frame is habituated. The best way to avoid this danger, is not to put an infant to sit up at all till after two months old, but always to support it, either when on the lap or in the arms, in a reclining posture, with the hand or arm behind its neck, so as never to let the head hang forward or fall back.

These may appear to many unnecessary, and perhaps absurd precautions, since we have often seen children grow up very healthy and free from all the dreaded evils, who have been made to sit up, with their heads hanging like flowers too heavy for their stalks: but we have also seen many die of unknown maladies, and of convulsions, the causes of which were not apparent, and which may possibly have proceeded from some injury to the spinal marrow, unobserved, and irremediable if it had been observed. When we consider the number of infants who perish in the first two months of their existence, it is surely well worth the attention of a mother to prevent even the most remote cause of harm to their delicate frames. There is the same reason for avoiding to make children sit up, as there is for not swathing them like Egyptian mummies, in the manner customary in so many parts of Europe: the greater number of those who have been dressed in this way are as straight and well made as those who have not; but the practice is better to be shunned, on account of the injuries which may, and sometimes do, happen in consequence of it. Children will by degrees acquire strength to hold up their heads, and some much sooner than others; but it is better not to run risks by anticipating the progress of nature when it may be retarded without danger.

Though infants should not be taken out till after they are a month old, as the open air can afford them no advantage or amusement, and may do them harm before this age; yet the atmosphere of their rooms should be constantly changed, and even in the coldest weather, if *not damp*, the windows ought to be left open for a quarter of an hour every day. The child should be taken into another room during this time and not brought back to its own till the air has been warmed again by the fire. Of course this should be understood of a child in health: in cases of illness everything must be conducted in a different manner. It is scarcely necessary to say, that in dry, warm weather, the windows of a nursery should be often opened during the day; the hours being adapted to the season and climate.

Infants should be brought by degrees to endure the cold air, as any sudden transition is injurious to them. Those born in winter require particular attention: they should not be taken out so soon as those born in summer; and it would be better to have the air of their rooms kept warm, than to load them with heavy clothing.

It should always be remembered that it is by no means safe to take young children into the open air too soon. Till a month old they can scarcely derive any advantage from going out; and, even after this age, it should depend on the time of year and the country where they are born. The pleasure they begin to show on being taken out at five or six weeks old, proves that exercise in the free air is then good for them; and, therefore, if the weather be fine, they should enjoy it every day; but with their bodies sufficiently covered to prevent them from feeling cold, and their eyes carefully guarded against the impression of strong light. As soon as the child shows any fatigue or uneasiness, and especially if it appears to suffer from the cold, it should be brought into the house;

and in damp weather, children under two months should not be taken out at all.

BY A GRANDMOTHER.

HONEY A CURE FOR THE GRAVEL.

A number of years ago, says a correspondent, I was much afflicted with the gravel, and twice in serious danger, from small stones lodged in the passage. I met with a gentleman who had been in my situation, and got rid of this disorder by sweetening his tea with half honey and half sugar. I adopted this remedy and found it effectual. After being fully clear of my disease about ten years, I declined taking honey, and in about three months I had a violent fit of my old complaint. I then renewed my practice of taking honey in my tea, and am now more than three score, and have not, for the last twentyseven years, had the smallest symptoms of the gravel. I have recommended my prescription to many of my acquaintance, and have never known it to fail.—*Political Exam.*

PACHA.

The words *pacha*, *pasha* and *bashaw* which so often occur in the accounts from Greece and Turkey, are the same in signification, being all derived from a word used by the Turks for governor or viceroy. There are two orders of pachas or bashaws; the first are called pachas with three tails, because three horses tails wave on their standards; their authority in their respective districts is almost as unlimited and despotic as that of the Grand Seignior. Pachas of the second order are allowed but two horse tails to their standards, and their power is somewhat limited. The captain pacha is governor of the islands of the Archipelago, and the first admiral of the Turkish navy.

A province governed by a pacha is called a pachalic, of which there are 17 in Asiatic Turkey. The whole of Palestine is included in the pachalic of Damascus, with the exception of Gallilee, which belongs to

he pachalic of Acre —The distant prchas yield a very dubious homage to the Grand Sultan.—*Hampshire Gazette.*

LECTURES AT THE PANTHEON HALL.

Mr Evans proposes to deliver a course of 12 Lectures on Geography and its kindred sciences. Terms—single tickets to the course, \$3; for a lady and gentleman, \$5; a family of four persons, \$7.

The Lectures are to be given on the evenings of Monday and Friday at 7 o'clock. The subject of his lecture on Friday evening next is Asia. Mr E. has an extensive apparatus for illustrating his Lectures. The gratuitous specimens he has given of his course have been quite satisfactory to those who have witnessed them. These exhibitions promise to be a very pleasing mode of obtaining a comprehensive view of the various countries of the earth, and of the rare and interesting works of nature and art. So much we say in favor of Mr Evans, because we have attended his Lectures and seen his apparatus, and think them both interesting and instructive. Mr E. has had much practice as a teacher, and has been constantly improving himself, as well as his maps, views, &c. &c.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

By a catalogue just received, it appears that the number of medical students is 154; seniors, 53, juniors, 51. The under graduates are 165; of whom 38 are seniors, 48 juniors, 41 sophomores, and 38 freshmen. Of the under graduates, New Hampshire furnishes 67; Vermont 30; Maine 1; Massachusetts 30; Connecticut 2; New York 4; Pennsylvania 1. Whole number at the College, 269. The annual expense is \$101 87.

A gentleman on his deathbed promised a friend of his, that he would remember him in his will if he would write an epitaph for him, consisting

of four lines only, and the word *so* must be introduced six times. His friend produced the following lines, which were approved of, and he was handsomely remembered for his ingenuity :

*So did he live,
So did he die,
So ! so ! did he so ?
Then so let him lie.*

The Rev. Mr Hagemore, of Calthorpe, Leicestershire, died January 1, 1746, possessed of the following effects, namely : £1000, in ready money, £700 per annum, 30 gowns and cossacks, 58 dogs, 100 pair of breeches, 100 pair of boots, 400 pair of shoes, 80 wigs, yet always wore his own hair, 80 carts and wagons, 80 ploughs, yet used none, 60 horses and mares, 200 pickaxes, 200 spades and shovels, 75 ladders, 340 razors, and as many walking sticks as a toyman in London offered his executors £8 for. He kept one servant of each sex, whom he locked up every night. His last employment every evening was to go round his premises, let loose his dogs, and fire off his gun.

A Remedy for Chincough.

“ Lay a plaster of gum albanum over the chest. If it will not adhere sufficiently, put some Burgundy pitch on the edge.”—*Newspaper.*

Another, equally infallible for an empty and hungry Stomach.

Take precisely two ounces of aqueduct, or distilled water; if this should not answer every purpose in half an hour, add to the above one ounce of cold bread, and the relief will be perfect.

TO MADAM DE STAEL.

Written after reading *Corinne ou l'Italie.*

O WOMAN, greatly gifted! why
Wert thou not gifted from on high?
What had that noble genius done—

That knew all hearts—all things, but one,
—Had that been known? O, would it
 might
Be whispered, ere she took her flight!
Where, where, is that fine spirit hurled,
That seemed unmeet for either world?

While o'er thy magic page I bend,
I knew thee—claim thee for my friend ;
With thee a secret converse hold,
And see my inmost thoughts unfold.
Each notion crude, defined—expressed ;
And certain, what I vaguely guessed.
And hast thou taught, with cruel skill,
The art to suffer better still ;—
Grief's finest secret to explore,
Though understood too well before?
Ah well, I'd thank thee if I might ;
Although so wrong, thou art so right!
While I condemn, my heart replies,
And deeper feelings sympathize.

Thy view of life—that painful view,
How false it is!—and yet how true!
“ Life without love—a cheerless strife ;
Yet love so rarely given to life.”
And why must truth and virtue, why,
This mighty claim of love deny?
—What was this earth, so full, so fair?—
A cheerless desert, bleak and bare—
God knew it was—till love was there.
Say, has the heart a glance at bliss—
One—till it glance or gaze at this?
Ah no! unblessed, unsoothed the lot,
Fair though it seem, that knows it not!
‘Tis true!—and to the truth replies
A thousand joyless hearts and eyes ;—
Eyes beamless—hearts that do not break---
They cannot—but that always ache ;
And slowly wither, day by day,
Till life at last is dried away.

“ Love or Religion ;” yes, she knew,
Life has no choice but ‘twixt the two :
But when she sought that balm to find,
She guessed and groped ; but still was
 blind.

Aloft she flew, yet failed to see
Aught but an earthly deity.
The humble Christian’s holy love,
O, how it calmly soars above
These storms of passion!—Yes, too much
I’ve felt her talent’s magic touch.
Return, my soul, to that retreat
From sin and woe—thy Saviour’s feet!
There learn an art she never knew,
The heart’s own empire to subdue ;
All to resign that He denies ;—
A large, but willing sacrifice.
To Him in meek submission bend ;
Own him an allsufficient friend :
Here, and in holy worlds above,
My portion—and my only love!

September, 1822. JANE TAYLOR.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, DEC. 5, 1826.

We feel obliged to the two medical friends who have furnished the original matter in this week’s paper, and hope their good examples will be followed by others. If the physicians who even now take the Intelligencer would severally send three communications a year to this journal, they would benefit themselves and the public, for the information of all would thus become the property of each, and would give success to the editor’s efforts to lessen the existing and sad amount of sickness and loss of health in the community, all arising from causes which might be foreseen, and prevented, or counteracted. Communications of this kind need not be long nor difficult to make up; the simple record of some practical fact, of some incident, mistake, or casualty, resulting from ignorance, carelessness, or some false notion about health and sickness---would often afford valuable hints and suggestions for admonition and instruction.

ESSAYS ON POPULAR EDUCATION

Have recently been published here by James G. Carter. These essays relate to a subject of more interest and importance to individuals, families and the public, than any other which the writer could have selected, and it is treated in a manner which deserves the general attention. Education, in its broad sense, embraces everything men can do for themselves and for one another. If there is anything solid, good, or desirable, or ornamental in the world, they all spring from good education.

Everything bad among men; everything deformed, frightful, wretched,—comes from no education, bad education, or good education perverted to wicked purposes. Good education, then, is the best treasure any man can possess. Good education is a thing which admits of different and various degrees of excellence; extending from the institution which does no harm and the least assignable degree of good, to that which without any admixture of error or evil, produces the greatest degree of benefit. If this is true, it is incumbent on every man who has any influence over himself, his friend or neighbor, to extend the means of good education as far as he can. If he thinks the object worth attaining, and knows not how to accomplish his purpose,—let him read these essays, and if by doing this he should imbibe their generous and philanthropic spirit, and feel the value and practicability of the improvements suggested by Mr. C., he will perceive that he has acquired new facts, and arguments and reasons to work with, and that he has acquired also a disposition to bring his new resources into their proper operation.

Our legislators should read this pamphlet: for what has Massachusetts done for education these forty years past? Nothing to what her early ancestors did before her, considering the different circumstances of the two cases. We are numerous, in easy circumstances, at peace—and *doing nothing*. They were few in number, scattered, surrounded by difficulties and perplexities, and with small means,—but they were actu-

ed by a noble zeal, and were strenuously active. They accomplished what has placed us where we now are, and doing this, have placed us also under the obligation of carrying on and completing the glorious work which they so well begun.

Much might be said of teachers, what they are, what they ought to be, and what they might be made; but we cannot at present, even if our readers would consent, pursue the subject further.

THIS AND THAT.

This refers to what is last mentioned,—to what is nearest in time, or place; *that* to what was first named, or is more remote in time or place. *This* is often equivalent to *the former*, and *that*, to *the latter*. This distinction, in the use of these words, cannot be disregarded without producing more or less of doubt, inaccuracy, or hesitation,—and yet there is not more than one writer in twenty, from the best to the worst, in England or America, who habitually attends to the different import of these two little, though often significant words. For instance:—

“The king of France has sent a gold medal to Mr. Williams, in token of his admiration of *that* artist’s Views of Greece. His Majesty has, at the same time, written a letter, expressing in feeling terms, his recollections of the kindness which he received in Scotland, in adverse times.”—*Lon. Lit. Gazette, &c.*

Why *that* artist? but one has been named, and nothing since his being named had intervened to throw him out of the immediate recollection, or sight and touch, as it were, of the speaker.

DICTIONARY.

Retina, an expansion of the optic nerve, at the bottom of the eye, on which objects are represented.

Calculus, see page 222.

Cholera infantum, the cholera of infants, in which undigested food, &c. are discharged from the stomach and intestines, attended with griping pains, &c.

Gramme, $15\frac{1}{2}$ grains, Troy weight.

In the last Dictionary, *Mesenteria* should have been *Mesenterica*.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

AMERICAN MODERN PRACTICE,
BY JAMES THACHER, M.D. A.A.S.

JUST published and for sale by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington-street, corner of Franklin-street.

District of Massachusetts, *to wit.*

District Clerk's Office.

BE it remembered, that on the 16th day of September, A. D. 1826, in the fiftyfirst year of the United States of America, Cottons and Barnard, of the said District, have deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof they claim as proprietors, in the words following, *to wit:*

"American Modern Practice; or, a simple method of Prevention and Cure of Diseases, according to the latest improvements and discoveries, comprising a practical system adapted to the use of medical practitioners of the United States. To which is added an Appendix, containing an account of many domestic remedies recently introduced into practice, and some improved formulae applicable to the diseases of our climate. A new edition improved. By James Thacher, M.D. A.A.S. Author of the American New Dispensatory, and Observations on Hydrophobia.

The young disease, which must subdue at length,

Grows with our growth, and strengthens with our strength."

A VAPOR or SULPHUR BATH can be had at any proper hour of the day, at 3, Central Court. The proper hours are before breakfast, dinner, and

tea. The best time is between 11 and 2 o'clock.

CHARLES WHITE,
Cornier of Marlboro' and Winter Streets,

HAS received by the late arrivals from Europe, a full assortment of DRUGS, MEDICINES, and SURGEONS' INSTRUMENTS—among the Instruments are Syringes for removing poison from the stomach—Amputating, Trepanning, Ophthalmia, Dentist, Pocket, Dissecting, and Midwifery Instruments—Cranatomy, Tooth, Dressing and Dissecting Forceps—Seton Needles, Trocars, Bistories, Lancets, Pins for Hair lips, &c.

Strict personal attendance paid to Physicians' Prescriptions, and to the delivery of Family Medicines.

Medicine delivered at any hour in the night.

THE MEDICAL LECTURES in Brown University, R. I. will be commenced on the third Thursday in February, 1827, and be continued about three months. Tickets to all the Lectures—\$40.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

THE Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College, will commence on Tuesday, the 20th day of February, 1827.

Theory and Practice of Physic by DANIEL OLIVER, M. D. Professor of the same department at Hanover, N. H.

Anatomy and Surgery by J. D. WELLS, M. D.

Midwifery by J. M'KEAN, M. D.

Chemistry and Materia Medica by P. CLEAVELAND, M. D.

The *Anatomical Cabinet* is very valuable and extensive.

The *Library* is one of the best Medical Libraries in New England; and is every year enriched by new works, both foreign and domestic.

Every person becoming a member of this Institution, is required to present satisfactory evidence, that he possesses a good moral character.

Citizens of Maine in indigent circumstances may have *surgical operations* performed, free of expense, if brought into the vicinity of the College during the Course.—As a reduction in the price of boarding is an object of importance to many, arrangements have been made, which, it is hoped, may effect this object to a considerable extent.

Brunswick, September 26, 1826.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St., to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid).—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1826.

NO. 30.

ON THE QUANTITY OF FOOD TO BE TAKEN AT MEALS.

There is no circumstance connected with diet, which popular writers have raised into greater importance; and some medical practitioners have even deemed it necessary to direct that the quantity of food, appropriated to each meal, should be accurately estimated by the balance. Mr. Abernethy says, that "it would be well if the public would follow the advice of Mr. Addison, given in the Spectator, of reading the writings of L. Cornaro; who, having naturally a weak constitution, which he seemed to have ruined by intemperance, so that he was expected to die at the age of thirtyfive, did at this period adopt a strict regimen, allowing himself only twelve ounces of food daily." When I see the habits of Cornaro so incessantly introduced as an example for imitation, and as the standard of dietetic perfection, I am really inclined to ask with Feyjoo—did God create Lewis Cornaro to be a rule for all mankind, in what they were to eat and drink? Nothing can be more absurd

than to establish a rule of weight and measure on such occasions. Individuals differ from each other so widely in their capacities for food, that to attempt the construction of a universal standard, is little less absurd than the practice of the philosophical tailors of Laputa, who wrought by mathematical calculation, and entertained a supreme contempt for those humble and illiterate fashioners who went to work by measuring the person of their customer; but Gulliver tells us, that the worst clothes he ever wore were constructed on abstract principles. How then, it may be asked, shall we be able to direct the proportion of food which it may be proper for an invalid to take? I shall answer this question in the words of Dr. Philip, whose opinion so exactly coincides with my own experience, that it would be difficult to discover a more appropriate manner of expressing it. "The dyspeptic should carefully attend to the first feeling of satiety. There is a moment when the relish given by the appetite ceases; a sim-

one mouthful taken after this depresses a weak stomach. If he eats slowly, and carefully attends to this feeling, he will never overload the stomach." But that such an indication may not deceive him, let him remember to *eat slowly*. This is an important condition; for when we eat too fast, we introduce a greater quantity of food into the stomach than the gastric juice can at once combine with; the consequence of which is, that hunger may continue for some time after the stomach has received more than would be sufficient, under other circumstances, to induce satiety. The advantage of such a rule over every artificial method by weight and measure, must be obvious; for it will equally apply to every person, under whatever condition or circumstances he may be placed. If he be of sedentary habits, the feeling of satiety will be sooner induced: and if a concurrence of circumstances should have invigorated his digestive powers, he will find no difficulty in apportioning the increase of his food, so as to meet the exigencies of the occasion.

Though it must be admitted, that we all take more solid food in health than may be necessary for supporting the body in its healthy state, yet it is important to know, that too great a degree of absti-

nence will also tend to weaken and distress both mind and body. Men who in the earlier ages, from a mistaken notion of religion, confined their diet to a few figs, or a crust of bread and water, were so many visionary enthusiasts; and the excessive abstinence to which some religious orders are subjected, has proved one of the great sources of modern superstition. The effects of feeding below the healthy standard, are also obvious in the poor and illfed classes in many parts of England and Ireland; and these are still more striking in those districts where the food is chiefly or entirely vegetable, and therefore less nutritious. It is also well known, that the obstinate fasting of maniacs often occasions a disease resembling sea scurvy.

Those who are induced from their situation in life constantly to exceed the proper standard of diet, will preserve their health by occasionally abstaining from food, or rather, by reducing the usual quantity, and living low, or *maire*, as the French call it. A poached egg, or a basin of broth, may on such occasions be substituted for the grosser solids. The advantage of such a practice has not only been sanctioned by experience, but demonstrated by experiment. The history of the art of "*training*" will furnish us with some curi-

dous facts on this subject. It is well known that racehorses and fightingcocks, as well as men, cannot be preserved at their *athletic weight* or at the "top of their condition," for any length of time; and that every attempt to force its continuance is followed by disease. A person, therefore, in robust health, should diminish the proportion of his food, in order that he may not attempt to force it beyond the athletic standard. I am particularly anxious to impress this important precept on the mind of the junior practitioner, as I have, in the course of my professional experience, seen much mischief arise from a neglect of it. A person after an attack of acute disease, when his appetite returns, is in the condition of a pugilist who is about to enter on a system of *training*; with this difference, that he is more obnoxious to those evils that are likely to accrue from overfeeding. In a state of debility and emaciation, without any disease, with a voracious appetite, he is prompted to eat largely and frequently; and he is exhorted by those not initiated in the mysteries of the medical art, to neglect no opportunity to "*get up his strength.*" The plan succeeds for a certain time, his strength increases daily, and all goes on well; but, suddenly, his appetite fails, he

becomes again unwell, and fever or some other mischief assails him. To the medical practitioner the cause of the relapse is obvious: he has attempted to force his strength too suddenly and violently beyond that athletic standard which corresponds with the vital energy of his constitution.

Any sudden transition from established habits, both in regard to the quantity and quality of food, is injudicious. This precept is the more important, as persons who have too freely indulged, and begin to feel the bad effects of their excesses, are disposed to alter their habits without the preliminary preparations. They leap at once from the situation which gives them pain or fills them with alarm, instead of quietly descending by the steps which would secure the safety of their retreat.

After long fasting, we ought also to be careful how far we indulge; this is a caution given to us by Avicenna, and practical physicians must be well aware of the penalty which attends a disobedience of it. When a famine occurred in the city of Bocara, those who had lived on roots and herbs, on their return to bread and flesh, filled themselves greedily, and died. But we need not search the annals of former times for an illustration: per-

sons who have been enclosed in coal mines for several days without food, in consequence of the accidental falling in of the surrounding strata, have not unfrequently lost their lives from the too assiduous administration of food after their extrication. During the period of my studentship at Cambridge, Elizabeth Woodcock was buried under the snow for the space of eight days: on her being found, she was visited by those to whom so extraordinary an adventure presented any interest; and I can state, from my personal knowledge of the fact, that she died in consequence of the large quantity of sustenance with which she was supplied. In the first volume of the Mémoirs of the Philosophical Society of Manchester, the case of a miner is recorded, who after remaining for eight days without food, was killed by being placed in a warm bed, and fed with chicken broth.

The advantages which are produced by rendering food grateful to invalids are so striking, that the most digestible aliment, if it excite aversion, is more injurious than that which, though in other respects objectionable, gratifies the palate. If feelings of disgust or aversion are excited, the stomach will never act with healthy energy on the ingesta; and in cases of extreme dis-

like, they are either returned, or they pass through the alimentary canal almost unchanged. On the other hand, the gratification which attends a favorite meal is, in itself, a specific stimulus to the organs of digestion, especially in weak and debilitated habits. In the sixth edition of my Pharmacologia, I published a case which was related to me by Dr. Merriiman, highly illustrative of the powerful influence of the mind on these organs. A lady of rank, laboring under a severe menorrhagia, suffered with that irritable and unrelenting state of stomach which so commonly attends uterine affections, and to such a degree, that every kind of aliment and medicine was alike rejected. After the total failure of the usual expedients to procure relief, and the exhaustion of the resources of the regular practitioner, she applied to the celebrated Miss Prescott, and was *magnetized* by the mysterious spells of this modern Circe. She immediately, to the astonishment of all her friends, ate a beefsteak, with a plentiful accompaniment of strong ale; and she continued to repeat the meal every day for six weeks, without the least inconvenience! But the disease itself, notwithstanding this treacherous amnesty of the stomach, continued with unabated violence, and

shortly afterwards terminated her life. On the other hand, I could cite several cases to show, that the most nutritive and digestible aliment may be rejected by the stomach, if any impression against its salubrity be produced. I remember a case in which, from some groundless suspicion, the idea of the food having been poisoned by copper was introduced, the persons at table became sick, one or two absolutely vomited, and the remainder complained of distress in the stomach and bowels.

Dr. Paris.

ACUPUNCTURATION.

Puncturing various parts and textures of the human body with surgical needles, is a new resource in surgery, and already promises to be of immense service. In many cases it has not only been unattended with any danger, but without occasioning much or any pain, has afforded speedy and permanent relief, in chronic and many painful diseases, when other means had failed.

We gladly place before the reader the following striking testimony in favor of this operation. It is taken from the *Gazette of Health*, and the *Lancet*, published in London.

Having witnessed the instantaneous, and, I may add, astonishing effect of Acupuncture as a remedial means, in the first case that came under my notice, I resolved to give the operation a fair trial

in every instance wherein its use should be indicated.

I was fortunate enough to meet with the cases here detailed, and the results of my practice have convinced me that acupuncture, under certain regulations, and in the hands of a skilful surgeon, is a powerful agent in the practice of surgery, whilst it conveys to the *liberal* mind, the pleasurable gratification of affording to human suffering instantaneous relief, by a more expeditious and efficacious mode than any other remedy in such cases hitherto known and employed. The introduction of the needle is seldom felt after touching the cutis, and then only when, perhaps, it encounters a filament of a nerve; the pain, in this case, is sometimes acute, but it is only momentary, and immediate relief is the result, at least I have found it so. I have never ventured beyond simply introducing the instrument, nor have I ventured near the trunks or the larger branches of nerves. I confess that with all my zeal for the remedy, I should not like to risk the pricking of either with an acupuncture needle; neither have I ventured to apply galvanism as an auxiliary; my cases prove successful without its aid, and I therefore leave that part of the subject to more experienced surgeons than myself.

CASE 1.—Mr. A. W. aged 50, a very corpulent subject, of about eighteen stone weight was violently attacked by lum-bago; after undergoing the ordeal of bleeding, purging, and embrocations without relief, on learning that I possessed the means of affording him immediate ease, sent for me to come to him immediately, and bring my “needles” with me. I found the poor fellow writhing with pain, beneath three blankets and a thick counterpane, under which he had been kept until he was bathed in perspiration. The seat of the pain was precisely over the whole of the sacrum, and extended to the alæ ischii. I introduced *three* needles into the part, to the bone, immediately over the centre of it, each two inches apart; the pain was instantly transferred to the left gluteus. I suffered the needles to remain half a minute, and then inserted them into that fleshy muscle, three-fourths of an inch deep, where the enemy had made a stand. Two needles routed him thence into the biceps, whence he finally posted himself in the gastrocnemii in the line of attack. One needle ultimately expelled him from this last position, and freed my patient from all pain. The operation lasted about five minutes. Mr. W. then got up and dressed himself, expressing the great-

est astonishment at what he termed the “magical effect of the needles”!!

Six hours after the enemy made a faint attack, but was instantly repulsed by one needle, and the patient left in quiet possession of the field, which he has enjoyed uninterrupted ever since.

CASE 2.—I was called to a poor woman, who had been confined to her bed three days by a severe attack of lum-bago, suffering the most acute agony on the slightest move-ment; the pain was referred to the back, on which she had lain since the attack.

With some difficulty and suffering she was turned on her face, and, on examination, the seat of the disease was ascertained to be in the *lower third* of the longissimi dorsi. I introduced three needles, an inch deep, into these muscles, two into the right and one into the left. The first needle was scarcely felt; the second occa-sioned acute pain, which ex-cited a piercing cry; the seve-rity of the pain, however, sub-sided entirely in a few seconds, and the third needle was pass-ed insensibly; the distance ob-served in this case was the same as in the last, namely, an inch. In less than four min-utes the needles were with-drawn, the patient no longer experiencing any inconveni-ence, save stiffness from hav-

ing laid so long on her back. Though perfectly freed from pain, it was enough to excite a smile to witness the woman's scepticism on the success of the operation; she could scarcely credit the evidence of her senses, for when desired to turn on her back she obeyed with hesitation and doubt, dreading lest she should encounter the "pain." She, however, at length succeeded, not only in turning, but sat up in bed, to the great joy of herself and her anxious husband, who witnessed the operation, and its happy effects, in breathless expectation. It was very gratifying to see the poor creature sit up; her countenance beamed with delight, equalled only by her astonishment and grateful thanks for the "wonderful cure" I had wrought in her!

I saw her the next day up and about, attending to her family of six infant children. The pains had not returned.

CASE 3.—An old man, 70 years of age, came into my surgery, his body bent immovably to almost a right angle, and walked, or rather hobbled, with difficulty; I at first attributed his appearance to the infirmity of years, but was surprised to learn from him, that he had come nearly a mile "to be relieved by my needles." He was suffering under a severe attack of lumbago in the longissimi dorsi.

Three needles introduced, as in the former case, performed a cure, and in five minutes the old man became again erect, and could stoop to the ground, which delighted him exceedingly. He walked out a very different being to what he was when he entered, and departed, leaving me his blessing.

CASE 4.—This old man, a few days after, met another in the same plight, whom he recommended to me for relief. The operation was performed on him in the same manner as his predecessor, and with the like result. He also left me his blessing!

I was sent for to another old man, 70 years of age, affected in the same manner. I succeeded with him in an equal ratio with the others, and left him to pursue his avocations as a laboring gardener.

In all these three cases, the attacks were occasioned by cold, from getting wet.

CASE 6.—A gentleman of strong muscular fibre, applied to me on account of a severe and distressing pain in the right hypochondrium, which affected his respiration. As the affection seemed purely muscular, I introduced two needles over the region of the right hepatic lobe; the second needle entered beyond the muscle into the peritoneal cavity. The patient felt a very acute pain for a moment, which

rather alarmed me; I, however, suffered the instrument to remain about twenty seconds, when it was withdrawn, and all pain ceased. No unpleasant symptom has since occurred.

I know, if we are to credit the statements to that effect in the French Journals, that the abdominal cavity, in fact, almost *all* the *cavities* have been pierced, not excepting the pericardium, nay, even the heart has come in for its share; but this is nothing in an age of miracles; but—verbum sat.

The wife of the last mentioned gentleman complained of a pain in her shoulder, which prevented her from using the arm. I found the sub-scapularis muscle affected; a needle was passed obliquely up to the hilt, under the posterior inferior angle of the scapula, and into the muscle; a sharp pain was felt; an instant after the patient declared herself quite well, and moved her arm about with perfect ease. The needle was withdrawn at the end of half a minute; no further inconvenience was felt.

CASE 8.—A lady applied to me, suffering under violent pain in the deltoid, which had deprived her of appetite and rest three days and nights. She had used embrocations without having received any benefit from them. Two needles in-

troduced into the muscle, performed a cure in three minutes. She raised her arm to her head, and turned it about in every way in wonder and astonishment, at the sudden and effectual relief she had so unexpectedly received.

This brief detail will, I trust, recommend acupuncture to the timid practitioner, with a success equal to my own. As respects the modus operandi, I have proceeded in every case according to the recommendation of Mr. Churchill, in his useful little work on acupuncture, to which I beg to refer the readers of the LANCET for further information on the subject. I may just observe, that the cases on which I so successfully operated were all simple local rheumatism; in only one case did blood issue from the punctures made by the needles, and that but a small drop. I shall not here hazard an hypothesis of the modus operandi of acupuncture, on the animal economy; but, at the same time, I am free to confess myself sceptical on the creed, that its effects are produced by the *escape of air* from the cellular membrane through the punctures made by the needles! This conclusion is not proved, neither do I believe it can be. The very *form* of the instrument is a barrier to the escape of air, and, moreover, the cure

is often performed *before the needles are withdrawn*, and frequently by causing *acute pain in the act of introducing them*. These are premises that warrant a very different conclusion in the rationale of the effect of acupuncture, than the escape of air; but what that conclusion is I know not, but I believe it to depend on some of those mysterious operations of nature that will ever be beyond the reach of human ken, and which by consequence constitute the *ne plus ultra* of physiological research. This may be considered a gratuitous assumption, but is, nevertheless, true.—MR. WANSBROUGH, of Fulham.

The experienced surgeon, Mr. Wardrobe, has lately published the following case, in which acupuncture was successfully employed under his direction, at the hospital of Surgery, in Panton Square.

J. T., by trade a carpenter, forty years of age, complained of a constant acute pain in the calf of the left leg, often extending from the knee to the foot. The pain was increased towards evening; and on taking exercise, frequently accompanied by slight involuntary contractions of the muscles. The skin was of its natural appearance, with the exception of a small cicatrix on the back part of the calf. He felt much inconvenience in

walking;—his general health was good.

He stated, that about two years ago, while cleaning a window, he fell down and hit his leg against a board, a splinter of which penetrated the calf of his leg to the depth of half an inch. The piece of wood was taken out, and most acute pain followed, which, however, went off in a few days. Eighteen months after the accident, the pain in the leg returned, and continued for several months, notwithstanding the frequent application of leeches, and severe and repeated blistering. The *acupuncture* needle was introduced into the substance of the muscles of the calf, to the extent of an inch and a half at two different places, and allowed to remain for a few minutes; immediately after the application he felt relief, and he remained nearly free from pain for eight days, when, after a long walk, the pain returned; the *acupuncture* was again performed with complete relief, and the patient has not since experienced a return of the pain.

A Dr. Moscelle states, that he has had recourse to *acupuncture* in two cases of tic douloureux, which had resisted all the remedies that have been recommended for this distressing malady, with complete success. In both

cases he carried three needles beyond the seat of pain; and in one case the points penetrated the cheek bone. As soon as the needles entered the part affected the pain ceased.

ON THE VAPOUR BATH.

Process of Massing—Observations on Friction—Friction and Percussion—Mexican Bath—Tamazcalli—Dr. Pocock on Turkish Baths—Franklin on Baths of Persia—Persian Baths—Baths among the Moors and Spaniards—Dry Heat preceding Vapor—Baths of Abano, &c.

The process of *massing*, so called by the Egyptians, is in most respects the same as shampooing, as used throughout India, and in the Levant; which immediately succeeding to the baths, causes a unison of action between the muscular fibre and the surface, that occasions both a salutary and refreshing sensation; from this mechanical action over the surface, with proper application, and the necessary perseverance, considerable advantage has arisen in a variety of instances, but its efficacy and advantage depend greatly on the dexterity and manner in which the operation is performed, which, though merely consisting of a particular mode of friction and pressure, or gentle percussion, is to be attained only by practice and long habit.

Those whose hands are soft and smooth are best suited to this occupation, and, from practice, they become so habituated to the process, as to be enabled to continue it for a long time, and in a manner both agreeable and efficacious, producing sensations which by sympathy influence diseased action, in distant and interior parts, and assisting nature in the salutary functions of absorption and secretion, by slow but by certain and imperceptible gradations.

Judicious percussion and pressure along the course of the muscles,

also materially assist towards the above desired purpose.

The ancient Mexicans used a Vapor bath which, in a degree, was peculiar to themselves, and which to this day is practised by their descendants.

Its form is that of “an oven, with an opening at top, and it is constructed of raw bricks, the floor of the bath being somewhat convex, and lower than the surface of the earth, and, according to the Abbé Clavigero, the greatest diameter is eight feet, and the height is six feet, the entrance being sufficient to allow a man to creep into it; this, with its furnace heated from without, is the common structure of the TEMAZCALLI.

“The bather, with his attendant, enter, close the door, and while he reclines on a mat, the attendant throws water on a hot porous stone, placed on the stove, from which a dense vapor arises, which he directs or drives downwards, and with a bunch of maize, or herbs made moist, gently beats the invalid, particularly on the diseased part; a copious soft sweat follows, which is continued for a longer or a shorter time according to circumstances.”

Doctor Pocock, in speaking of the Turkish baths, says, “one of the greatest refreshments among the Turks is in going to their bagnios; in the first large room, generally covered with a cupola, they undress, and putting on their wooden pattens, which they use also in their houses, they go into the hot room, where they are washed and rubbed with brushes and hair cloths; they rub the feet with a sort of grater made of earthen-ware, somewhat resembling the body of a bird; they make all the joints snap, even the very neck, and all down the back, which they think makes the joint supple, after this they are shaved, and go into the bath; from this place they return by a room not so hot, where they stay awhile, and thence go in-

to the great room, repose on a bed, smoke their pipe, take their coffee, and dress."

With some variation the practice among the Persians is pretty much the same; Franklin describes the baths of Persia as large and commodious—"the bath is a large room, of an octagonal form, with a cupola at the top, through which the light and air are admitted: on the sides of this room are small platforms of wood, raised about a foot from the ground, on which the people who enter to bathe perform their devotions, a ceremony the Persians always previously observe. At the upper end of the room is a large basin or reservoir of water, built of stone, well heated by means of stoves made at the bottom, with iron gratings over them, and adjoining is another reservoir of cold water, of which the bather has his choice.

"When he comes out of the hot bath, which is generally in the space of ten or twelve minutes, the people in the house stand ready to perform the operation of rubbing; and to effect this, he is laid at full length on his back, with a pillow to support his head; a brush, made of camels' hair, is then used, which completely rubs off all the dirt the body has contracted.

"After rubbing sometime, they rinse the whole body several times, with several basins of warm water, and the person is reconducted to the dressing apartment, where he shifts and dresses at leisure, receiving a *calian* to smoke.

"The Persians are much more scrupulous than in any other eastern nation in permitting foreigners to go into their baths, which, if attempted with their knowledge they prevent, as the bath, by the admission of a foreigner, would be deemed polluted."

The Moors and ancient Spaniards used rooms and sweating chambers, formed after the manner at present practised by the American Indians,

and which were filled with vapor of a very high degree of temperature, by dashing water on heated stones.

In times far remote, the Spaniards introduced this practise among the Irish, and, by means of small conical buildings, rudely constructed, its use, under one form or another, has been pretty general amongst the working class of this people, up to the present time.

The patient sat or stood within a small conical building, which had been previously heated, and soon after followed a general flow of perspiration. The topical application of vapor, in cases of slow parturition, still prevails, and is advantageously practised on an improved plan at present in Paris.

Among some of the northern nations, it is in use to expose the body for some time to a *dry heat*, previous to the admission of vapor, and then the latter is believed to have a more direct influence; this practical fact, derived from a source where science has no place, is deserving of attention, and will receive illustration as we proceed in the consideration of vapor.

The hot springs of Italy and Germany are found by long experience to be of signal efficacy when used in their fluid or vaporic state. The reputation of the baths of the village of Abano, a few miles from Padua, and in the vicinity of the Euganean hills, has been long since established.

They rise from a tumulus in a plain, and "burst two or three copious streams of hot water, which are capable of boiling an egg hard at their source." A modern traveller expresses himself thus: "It is not, however, on its geological wonders that the modern notoriety of Abano principally rests. It is celebrated for its muds, which are taken out of its hot basins, and applied either generally or partially, as the case of the patient may demand.

"These are thrown by after having been used, and at the conclusion of the season returned to the hot fountains, where they are left till the ensuing spring, that they may impregnate themselves anew with the mineral virtues, which these are supposed to contain."

"The most obvious of those to an ignorant man, are salt and sulphur. The muds are, on being taken out, intensely hot, and must be kneaded and stirred some time, before they can be borne. When applied, an operation which very much resembles the taking a stucco cast, they retain their heat, without much sensible diminution, for three quarters of an hour, having the effect of a slight *rubefacient* on the affected part, and producing a profuse perspiration from the whole body."

Thus, by the agency of this mud, either generally or topically applied, a hot vapor is produced, causing an active circulation and efflorescence on the surface, so as to produce considerable advantage in gouty, rheumatic, and paralytic affections; for, by confining the heated vapor, and retaining it immediately over the affected part, its efficacious consequences are often considerable; this, in a less degree, is the common result of our practice in the use of fomentations and cataplasms under certain circumstances, which prove useful in proportion to the heat, reducing the contained moisture into vapor on the affected part.

The vapor arising from these waters being conveyed into a sudatorium, is applicable to the removal of a variety of diseases, which have been found to resist the waters as a bath, in the usual manner; and this effect, as well as that arising from the application of the mineralized muddy sediment, has raised the reputation of the baths of Abano so highly in gouty, paralytic, and every species of muscular debility, that many of the accounts would seem incredible were they not well authen-

ticated, which, however, must be considered as strong and convincing proofs of the superior efficacy of steam in most diseases of this character.

At Carlsbad, in Bohemia, are the celebrated hot baths, first extolled into notice by Charles IV.; their degree of heat is excessive, and their efficacy is principally produced in conjunction with the use of heated rooms, while the patients drink these waters of as high a temperature, and in as large quantites as they are capable; a profuse exudation from the skin ensues, and the relief from diseased feeling is so considerable as to promise an immediate cure, did not experience teach that the reiteration of their use, often to a protracted period, is generally required towards its completion.

This latter observation is applicable to the vapor, mud, and mineral waters of Abano, which, after long and patient trials, have proved most successful, where, from a few applications at the commencement, the expected relief was by no means probable.

The natural warm baths of Italy, particularly those of the ancient Baia, Tritoli, and St. Germano, are of so high a temperature as to produce vapor in considerable abundance.

In the sudatories of the latter place, where there are several apartments, an exposure to the heated steam issuing from the earth produces a copious flow of perspiration, its heat being modified and moderated according to circumstances.

In those of Baia, situated not far from the ancient ruins of the Emperor Nero's palace, the vapor near its source is so intensely hot, that it is not to be borne without very great inconvenience; but, under proper rule and regulation, the application of this steam to the removal of many chronic diseases, is of most signal service, and from a modern account

it is manifest that the test of time has confirmed the character these sudatories have obtained.

HINTS TOWARDS FORMING A PROGNOSIS IN CASES OF MENTAL DERANGEMENT.

From the aggregate number of patients attacked for the first time with mania or melancholia, properly treated, and put under suitable restraint within three months after the date of the first attack, seven out of ten among the poor, and more of the rich will recover. In a selection made from the aggregate number of such recent cases of mania where the patient is under fifty years of age, where the nervous energy is strong, the circulation equable, the viscera sound, the intellectual powers tolerable, and no unfavorable circumstances occur, the author does not doubt that fifteen out of sixteen may be, and have been restored to reason.

General bleeding, and the want of suitable restraint, render a great number of cases incurable. Most puerperal maniacs who are bled freely, die; where they survive, dementia results. Where mania is the sequel of occasional ebriety, ninety eight cases out of a hundred recover, even after repeated attacks; but if mania is the result of habitual intoxication, dementia follows. If mania is occasioned by typhus gravior, epilepsy, palsy, apoplexy, or injuries on the head, permanent recovery is rare: they often become sane and then relapse. Hereditary tendency predisposes to relapse. When mania is produced by religious terror, or fear of punishment after death, recovery takes place as readily as from other causes of mental irritation: "but where the mind is intensely and exclusively occupied with the mysteries of religion, and the disease comes on slowly, and without fever, the patient imagining himself inspired with prophetic powers, recoveries are very rare."

Indeed, from most kinds of monomania arising from whatever cause, when no fever or bodily disease attends the attack, not one in ten recovers. Great cerebral injury is frequently occasioned by long continued application of cold to the lower extremities; mania from this cause frequently proves fatal.

When mania arises without apparent cause, as frequently occurs where it is hereditary, the ratio of recoveries is often very considerable.

From dementia he has seen but one case of recovery, and that a very recent one. Some patients recover to a certain point, remain stationary for a few weeks, and then again relapse.

Maniacs again recover more slowly and less frequently from the second and third attack than the first, except it arises from occasional ebriety, fits of anger, or in half idiots. Mania tends materially to shorten life in all cases, except such as are unattended with ostensible corporeal disease.—*Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journ.*

SO TRULY WE MET.

So truly we met, and so faithful we parted,
That which was the sweeter even I
could not tell,
That first look of welcome her sunny eye
darted,
Or tears of compassion which blest our
farewell;
To meet was a favor—and to part thus,
another;
Our joy and our sorrow seem'd rivals in
bliss;
O, Cupid's two eyes are not liker each
other,
In smiles, and in tears, than that mo-
ment to this.

The first was like daybreak, new, sudden,
delicious,
The dawn of a pleasure scarce kindled
up yet,
The last was that farewell of daylight
more precious,
More glowing and deep, as 'tis nearer
its set.
Our meeting, though happy, was tinged
by a sorrow,

To think that such happiness could not remain,
While our parting, though sad, gave a hope that tomorrow
Would bring back the blest hour of meeting again.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 1826.

We acknowledge the receipt of a communication on Bronchotomy from Dr. A. TROWBRIDGE, of Jefferson co., N. Y., with a drawing of several new or improved instruments to be used in the operation.

The Importance of the Sciences of Anatomy and Physiology, as a Branch of General Education, &c.; an Introductory Lecture, by Dr. USHER PARSONS. Read to the Upper Classes in Brown University.

In delivering these lectures Dr. Parsons has been engaged in the good work of diffusing a knowledge of the structure and economy of the human body, as a part of that information which is necessary to its preservation and improvement. The Lecturer thus introduces his subject.

Anatomy teaches the structure of organized substances, whether animal or vegetable. Physiology comprises a knowledge of their functions and modes of action. Commonly, however, the two terms are restricted in their application to animal bodies, and in the present course of lectures our attention will be confined to the anatomy and physiology of man; though I shall, occasionally, illustrate our subject, by comparisons drawn between the structure of the human and brute species.

You will be convinced of the value of such comparisons, when informed of the amount of knowledge already derived from this source. It has been justly inferred from the writings of the Greeks and Romans that they gathered nearly all their ideas of the

structure of the human frame from comparative anatomy, since an accurate description of such animals, as bear the nearest resemblance to man, would be equal to their best systems of human anatomy.

In speaking of the benefit of these sciences the doctor observes,

In the first place, you will find it very convenient, when giving a history of your disease to a physician, to be able to call "things by their right names." Many times, it is difficult to resist a disposition to smile at the descriptions given by patients of what they consider the seat and nature of their complaints. Palpable ignorance on such subjects is calculated to diminish a person's respectability, especially among strangers; and still more so, if he be understood to have received a college education. Besides this, all persons have more or less interest in knowing something of the structure of their bodies, to enable them to guard against those injuries, to which they are constantly liable, from accidents without, and disorders within. When we know precisely the part affected, when we can determine the amount and sources of danger, we are shielded against unnecessary fear on the one hand, while, on the other, we are duly awakened and prepared to meet any danger that may exist.

If our joints are dislocated, we know the nature and extent of the evil, and the best manner of applying a remedy, and hence we are less likely to fall into the hands of natural bonesetters.—Natural bonesetters !!—a term, that to one, who has examined the structure of joints, seems as great a burlesque on common sense, as it is on the healing art—a term, implying that some persons come into the world, possessed of a particular knowledge of the joints, more perfect forsooth than can possibly be acquired by repeated and close examination of them in a dissectingroom. I am not lawyer enough

to know the order of transmitting this gift; whether the rights of primogeniture are observed, or whether, when the line becomes extinct, it passes over to collateral branches of the family. Nor am I sufficiently versed in experimental physiology, to know whether the faculty may not be transferred from one person to another by inoculation, or by transfusing the blood from the gifted, to the veins of another person, or be ingrafted on him by some nice operation of the Taliacotian art.

Sir Astley Cooper, however, well observes, that bonedislocaters is quite as appropriate a term as bonesetters. That these magical pretenders sometimes replace luxated bones is admitted, but that they enjoy the reputation of replacing many bones that never were dislocated, is equally true. I was called to an aged lady, whose shoulder had undergone sundry wrenchings from the hands of one of these magicians, who gave her to understand, that he had replaced two or three of the bones, and was in hopes of soon adjusting the remainder!

Why are there no pretenders to extraordinary gifts in other mechanical arts? for such is the setting of dislocated bones. Why are there no natural watchmakers, or wheelwrights,—pretenders, not to peculiar adroitness in the adjustment of the several parts of carriages, or time-pieces, acquired by long practice in such kinds of work, for this will not answer to the claims set up by a natural bonesetter—why, I ask, are there no pretenders to a mysterious, innate, hereditary skill, in the adjustment of the spokes of a carriage-wheel, or the mechanism of a time-piece, superior to what can be gained by serving a regular apprenticeship to the business of making and repairing these articles? The answer is obvious: Every person knows, or can with facility learn, what is required to be done in the latter case, by examining the article, and he is

able to judge of the best manner of doing it. And it is hardly necessary to add, that a corresponding exemption from the deceptions of natural bonesetters, would accompany the more general extension of a knowledge of the framework of our bodies.

The more that is known of the mechanism, springs and movements of the human being, and of the causes and agencies which tend to preserve and exalt him on the one hand; or to impair, degrade and destroy him on the other; the sooner and the better prepared we shall be to secure to him, in their perfect state, all those faculties, immunities, prerogatives and blessings of which he is made capable.

Dr. Parsons' discourse is clear and intelligible, and gives good evidence that he is well qualified to accomplish the task he has undertaken.

A MISTAKE.

In the remarks of last week on *This and That*, the following sentence “*This* is often equivalent to *the former* and *that* to *the latter*,” should have been, *this* is often equivalent to *the latter*, and *that* to *the former*. In this instance, pointed out by a friend, the fault was in the *pen*, and not in the *head*, or *intellect*,—excepting only that *this* being a little off its guard, permitted *that* to make a false report.

DICTIONARY.

Cutis, the skin; hence *cutaneous* and *cuticular*.

Dementia, loss of intellect, or mind.

Gastrocnemii, *gluteus*, and *longissimi dorsi*, are all names of certain muscles, or portions of fleshy substance.

Hepatic lobe, a lobe, division, or portion of the liver.

Hypochondrium, right and left; the space below the ribs, and near the spine.

Ischium, a bone of the *pelvis* or basin. *Ale ischii*, parts, or processes of this bone.

Lumbago, pain, or rheumatism, in the loins.

Monomania, partial insanity, in which the mind is deranged on one subject only.

Peritoneal cavity, the abdomen, because this is lined by the peritoneum, which covers also the abdominal viscera.

Petechia, Italian, fleabites. Red or purple spots or eruptions, which mostly appear in contagious diseases, —resembling fleabites.

Purpura. Some writers term the miliary fever *purpura alba*, when the pustules are white,—and *purpura rubia* when they are red. The *miliaria* or miliary fever, is so called because it is attended with an eruption of pimples, or vesicles resembling millet seed.

Sacrum, the flat bone at the lower part of the spine.

Typhus gravior, the worst kind of typhoid, typhous, or nervous fever.

Viscus, any organ which has an appropriate use; *viscera*, plural.

containing Medical Advice for Seamen and other persons at Sea, on the Treatment of Diseases, and on the preservation of Health in sickly climates. By Usher Parsons, M. D., formerly of the United States Navy—2d edition.”

TO PHYSICIANS.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

THE MEDICAL LECTURES in Brown University, R. I. will be commenced on the third Thursday in February, 1827, and be continued about three months. Tickets to all the Lectures—\$40.

WELLS & LILLY

HAVE just published GOOD'S BOOK OF NATURE, in 2 vols. 8vo.

SAILOR'S PHYSICIAN.

RICHARDSON & LORD have been appointed by the proprietors agents for the sale of “SAILOR'S PHYSICIAN,

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St., to whom all communications must be addressed (post-paid).—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1826.

NO. 31.

IDIOSYNCRASIES.

The doctrine of the different Temperaments is not only founded in nature, but is susceptible of useful application, as it leads to an advantageous modification of education and of selfgovernment, according to the peculiarities of individuals. These peculiarities are more or less perceptible and prominent in particular persons, being striking in some instances, and hardly observable in others. They relate to the original constitution of the body, the mind and the affections. It is satisfactory to know what is believed on this subject, and what may beneficially influence our conduct in relation to ourselves and others. The following essay gives all the information that is needed on this topic, and it has beside the merit of being intelligible and not prolix. It is from the pen of Dr. J. WARRELL, of Virginia.

Fashion in everything bears sov'reign sway,
And words and periwigs have each their day.

What is said by the witty author of my motto, on the passing frivolities of the day, is equally applicable, not only to the weightier matter of the law and gospel, but also to a profession which should alone acknowledge the influence of

stern reason, accurate research and legitimate deduction.

The oracular dogmas from the temple and family of Esculapius; arranged and matured by Hippocrates and his sons, were, after a time, obliged to yield to the efforts of Serapion and the empirics; these in their turn were supplanted by Themison and the methodic sect. The revived opinions of the dogmatists, encumbered with the embarrassing subtleties of the Aristotelian philosophy, under the celebrated Galen, kept possession of the school during the greater part of the dark ages; but were at length forced to retire before the wild theories of the enthusiastic Paracelsus; and still wilder Rosicrucians. The humoral pathology, supported by the learning, sagacity, and eloquence of the mighty Boerhaave, soon felt the influence of the fickle goddess, and sunk before the spasm and plausible theories of the cautious Cullen. After a short struggle these opinions also passed away; while the bold and dashing fancies of Brown, and the ill methodized notions

of the poetic Darwin held a temporary sway.

Amid this wide spread ruin of sects and theories, it is to be remarked, the doctrine of the *temperaments* has passed down to us from the most remote periods of antiquity, in all its grand and simple features; a convincing proof of its truth and importance; and which it is hoped will plead my excuse for calling your attention to a subject that appears to have been latterly too much neglected.

The name of temperaments has been given to certain physical and moral differences that present themselves in man; and which evidently stamp an essential organic character and constitution, not only on large bodies or nations of men, but also on individuals, each of whom has a particular manner of being, which distinguishes his temperament from that of every other. These individual temperaments, the knowledge of which is of no small importance in the practice of physic, are called idiosyncrasies.

The predominance of a particular system of organs, modifies the whole economy, impresses striking differences on the results of organization, and exerts no less influence on the moral and intellectual, than on the physical powers; constituting the predominant tem-

perature of which it is the cause and essence. Since the construction of the body follows the same model in all, it seems strange, at first sight, that each individual should possess such striking and peculiar characteristics: but, let the number of tissues or elementary ingredients of the body be considered; let the number of organs composed of these, be taken into view; let us recollect the various vital properties which they possess, and our wonder will cease. By the various combinations produced by these differences, individual idiosyncrasies and general temperaments may be sufficiently accounted for.

How far the temperaments are influenced by the following circumstances; that is, 1st, By the state of the simple solid either as regarding the fibrous or cellular texture. 2d, By the state of the fluids; as, the different proportions and conditions of the serum, red globules, and gluten. 3dly, As regards the distribution of the blood. 4thly, The different proportion of solids and fluids. 5thly, and lastly, The state of the nervous power as it influences the sensibility, irritability, and mobility. A consideration of these circumstances would require a volume, and far exceed the limits of time and place now allotted me: this, however, is not to be

regretted, being ably elucidated by the comprehensive, cautious, and accurate mind of the great Cullen, in the introduction to his *Materia Medica*; an attentive perusal of which I would recommend to your serious consideration.

The first of the temperaments to be particularly mentioned, is that which the ancients, and which physicians at all times since, have distinguished by the appellation of the *sanguine*. In this the external appearances are the following: The hair soft and not much curled, is of a pale color, passing through different shades to a red; the skin is smooth and white; complexion ruddy; eyes commonly blue; habit of body soft and plump; easily sweating on moderate exercise; the strength of the whole body moderate; the mind sensible, irritable, cheerful, and unsteady: the heart and arteries possess a predominate activity; the pulse is strong, frequent and regular; the countenance animated; the stature elevated; the figure agreeable, though strongly marked. Persons in whom this excess of the circulatory system is observed, are easily affected by impressions from external objects; the perception will be prompt; the memory tenacious; the imagination lively and luxuriant; fond of the pleasures of the table and of

love. They generally possess a state of health seldom interrupted by slight diseases. Those of this temperament, when they do occur, have their principal seat in the circulatory system, producing inflammatory fevers, phlegmasiae, hemorrhoids, &c. requiring what are called the antiphlogistic remedies, particularly blood-letting. This temperament is most exquisite from the time of puberty till the decline of manhood, but continues its character in some measure throughout life: the ancients also called it the hot and moist temperament.

In the bilious or choleric temperament of the ancients, the sensibility is both acute and easily excited; the judgment capable of dwelling for a long time on the same object; the pulse is strong, hard, and frequent; the subcutaneous veins projecting; the skin rather brown, inclining to yellow; the hair hard, black and curled; the body moderately fleshy; the muscles firm and well marked; the figure expressive; the passions violent; the motions of the mind abrupt and impetuous; the character steady and inflexible, hardy in the conception of a project, constant and indefatigable in its execution. Among men of this temperament are found those who at different periods have governed the affairs of

the world ; abounding in courage, audacity, and activity, signalized by great virtues, or by great crimes, the terror or admiration of the universe : it is also characterized by an early developement of the moral faculties. Since an excessive action of the liver, with an obvious superabundance of the biliary secretion, must frequently exist with this constitution of the body, in which the vascular system possesses the greatest energy, to the prejudice of the cellular and lymphatic systems, it has been emphatically denominated, by the ancients, the bilious temperament; it has also been designated by them as the hard and dry temperature. The diseases to which individuals of this temperament are most subject, are derangements of the hepatic organs, joined with changes in the nature of the biliary secretion ; hence the medicines employed to remedy these affections are generally active evacuants, particularly drastic purgatives, gentle emetics, &c.

When to this bilious temperament is superadded a morbid obstruction of some organ in the abdomen, or any derangement in the functions of the nervous system ; the vital functions are carried on in a weak and irregular manner ; the skin is more deeply tinged ; the countenance becomes un-

easy and oppressed ; the bowels inactive ; all the secretions tardy ; the pulse hard and habitually contracted : this general uneasiness has also an influence over the cast of ideas ; the imagination becomes gloomy, and the character suspicious. The very numerous varieties of this temperament were called, by the ancients, the melancholic or atrabilious. A diversity of circumstances may contribute to produce it ; such as, hereditary diseases ; long continued sorrows ; incessant study ; the abuse of pleasure, &c. Many physicians, among them Cullen, and Clerc in his natural history of man in a state of disease, consider the melancholic temperament less as a natural and primitive constitution, than as a morbid affection, either hereditary or acquired.

If the proportion of liquids be too considerable for that of the solids, it gives to the whole body an increased bulk, from the repletion of the cellular texture ; hence, the fleshy parts are soft ; the countenance dull ; the pulse weak and slow ; the skin fair and pale ; the hair of some light tint, as flaxen or sandy ; the figure plump and without expression ; all the vital functions are more or less languid ; the memory not tenacious, and the attention wavering. This is the temperament to which the an-

cients gave the name of acters. *phlegmatic*, and the moderns that of *lymphatic*, because it really depends on the excess and activity of this system. The individuals of this temperament have generally an insurmountable desire of indolence, and a great dislike both to the exercise of body and mind.

To these four temperaments of the ancients, the moderns have added a fifth, designated as the *nervous temperament*, attended with the existence and ascendancy of great nervous susceptibility. This property, which causes us to be more or less sensible to impressions received by our organs, is weak in the *phlegmatic*, almost nonexisting in the *melancholic*, acute in the *bilious*, and moderate in the *sanguine*.

This temperament is seldom natural or primitive, but most frequently acquired, and is dependent on a sedentary and too voluptuous life, reiterated pleasures, exaltation of ideas kept up by reading works of imagination, &c. It is also distinguished by a slender habit; smallness of the muscles, often soft and wasted; by the vivacity of sensations; by the promptitude and variability of determinations and of the judgment. Hysterical women, whose sensibility is very great, frequently present this state of the body, with all its char-

acteristics. Convulsive diseases are most common to persons of this constitution. Anti-spasmodics succeed best in the treatment of the diseases of this system, which always partakes more or less of the impression of the temperament: while stimuli are more advantageous in those affections to which the *phlegmatic* or *lymphatic* temperaments are subject. Trouchin, of Geneva, acquired very extensive reputation, and a large fortune, by his skill in treating disorders of the *nervous temperament*. He made his idle female patients exercise themselves habitually till they were fatigued, and restricted them to simple and plain food.—Trotter, of Newcastle, has written largely on the nervous temperament, to which I beg leave to refer you.

Though candor requires I should acknowledge my obligations to the eloquent and flowery Richerand, for the use I have made of his beautiful definitions of the temperaments; yet I think his mode of illustrating these definitions is faulty; therefore, instead of drawing these illustrations from antique statues, and celebrated individuals who have rendered themselves conspicuous in the history of mankind, I have thought they would be more strongly impressed on the mind by exam-

plies drawn from original tribes, and large masses of mankind. Thus, for example, I would depict the sanguineous as strongly marked in our Teutonic or Germanic ancestors, as described by the strong pen of the sarcastic Tacitus.— While, on the contrary, the bilious is as impressively marked in the Celtic descendants, of the Southern part of Europe, as in Italy, Spain, Portugal, and the South of France. Perhaps I may be indulged in conceiving a fancied resemblance of the melancholic in the aboriginal Indians of our own country. The inhabitants of Holland remarkably elucidate the effect of climate over the temperament, showing strikingly the influence of cold and moisture in producing the phlegmatic or lymphatic temperament. Happily for us, the nervous temperament does not so frequently occur in large masses as to degenerate into national traits; it is chiefly to be sought for among the victims in the higher ranks of an overstrained and vicious civilization.

Having thus given a brief and hasty sketch of a subject at all times, and by all nations, thought an important one; I shall only further intrude on your patience, while I offer some practical applications to the present state of our city.

Should Providence in its anger, and as a punishment for supine and culpable negligence, visit us with a dangerous and malignant epidemic, but which has been hitherto averted; thanks to the well ventilated current of air and water poured over the rocky bosom of the majestic James river, that, to us, magnus fons salutis. Should, however, our continued neglect of the shallow puddles of water, the constant receptacles of every species of filth, overcome the natural salubrity of our city, and we should, in turn, become the victims of a wide spread and dangerous disease: it is to be hoped that we shall not, either influenced by fashion, intrigue, or clamor, adopt indiscriminately any general plan of cure, but rather attentively consider the temperament and idiosyncrasy of those committed to our care, adapting our means of cure to the existing circumstances of our patients, and not indiscriminately pour out torrents of their blood, break down their stamina by drastic evacuants, or keep them in a constant state of stupefaction with wine, brandy, bark and opium. Uninfluenced by fashion or caprice, the conscientious physician will attentively consider how the means of cure may be most conveniently and best adapted

to the habit and idiosyncrasy of his patient, and will also keep in mind the wonderful resources and energies of the vital principle. In his progress, new views may probably open, but he will recollect that the soundest judgment is shown in steering between opposite extremes; he will accordingly vary his plan to the different symptoms and appearances that may occur; not obstinately persisting in preconceived notions, or theories, when he finds they will not apply to the case under his consideration.—*Med. Rec.*

GIVING MEDICINES.

Many persons are more disposed to prescribe for the sick medicines whose effects they cannot estimate, and for diseases they do not understand, than to pursue the proper course for preventing sickness. The former is much easier than the latter, for those who do not regard consequences,—and is more grateful to their fancied skill and sagacity. To all such we recommend a careful perusal of the following circumstances and conditions which should be fully considered and comprehended by all who undertake the treatment of diseases.

THE DOSES OF MEDICINAL SUBSTANCES are specific with respect to each, and can therefore be only learnt from experience; the young and eager practitioner, however, is too often betrayed into the error of supposing that the powers of a remedy always increase in an equal ratio with its dose, whereas THE DOSE ALONE

VERY OFTEN DETERMINES ITS OWN SPECIFIC ACTION. "Medicines," says Linnaeus, "differ from poisons, not in their nature but their dose." So that food, remedies, and poisons, may be said to branch into each other by indefinable degradations. Five grains of Camphor act as a mild sedative, and slight diaphoretic, but twenty grains induce nausea, and act as a stimulant; so again, Opium, in too large doses, instead of promoting, prevents sleep, and rather stimulates the bowels, than acts as a narcotic. Two ounces of any neutral salt are apt to be emetic, one ounce even of Alum to be cathartic, and two drachms to be refrigerant; in like manner, the preparations of Antimony either vomit, purge, or sweat, according to the quantity exhibited.

Would it not appear that powerful doses rather produce a local than general effect? Experience seems to prove in this subject, that the effect of an internal application is similar to that of an external impression; if violent, it affects the part only as pinching does that of the skin, whereas titillation, which may be said to differ only from the former in degree, acts on the whole system, and occasions itching and laughter, and if long continued, weakness, sickness, vomiting, and convulsions; in like manner, Digitalis, if given in large doses, acts immediately on the stomach or bowels, becoming emetic and cathartic, but in smaller proportions it produces a GENERAL effect, increasing all the excretions, especially that of urine. I am well satisfied that the regulation of the dose of a medicine is even more important than it is usually supposed to be. Substances perfectly inert and useless in one dose, may prove in another active and valuable. Hence may be explained the great efficacy of many mineral waters, whilst the ingredients which impart activity to them are found comparatively inert, when they become the elements of an artificial combination; and hence proba-

bly the failure of many *alterative* medicines, when no other rational cause can be assigned for it. We need not seek far for an example of the very different and opposite effects which the same substance can produce in different doses; the operation of *common salt* is familiar to us all; Sir John Pringle has shown that in quantities such as we usually take with our food, its action is highly septic, softening and resolving all meat to which it is applied, whereas in larger quantities it actually preserves such substances from putrefaction, and therefore, when so taken, instead of promoting, destroys digestion.

It is moreover probable that medicinal, like nutritive substances, are more readily absorbed into the circulating system when presented in small quantities, than when applied in more considerable proportions. It is on this principle that a large quantity of food, taken seldom, does not fatten so much as smaller quantities at shorter interval, as is exemplified in the universal good condition of cooks and their attendants. It is not pressing the principle of analogy too far to suppose that the action of *alteratives*, which require to be absorbed, may be more effectually answered by similar management, that is, *by exhibiting small doses at short intervals*.

The operation of medicines is influenced by certain general circumstances, which should be also kept in mind when we apportion their dose; for example, Age—Sex—Temperament—Strength of the Patient—Habit—Diet—Profession—Climate—Duration of the Disease—State of the Stomach—Idiosyncrasy—and the Variable Activity of the Medicinal Substance.

Women generally require smaller doses than men. Habit, or the protracted use of a medicine, generally diminishes its power, though certain cathartics appear to offer an exception, for when long continued, their

activity is proportionably increased, as is well known to every person who is familiar with the operation of the Cheltenham waters. Emetics also frequently become more powerful by repetition; but this is probably the effect of the mind; for after the frequent use of such a remedy, the mere sight of it, or even conversation relative to it, will excite nausea.

In apportioning the dose of a very active medicine, it is of the greatest moment to determine the relative degrees of power between the system and the remedy, and to know to what extent the latter is likely to be carried, consonantly with the powers of life to resist it; thus, after a patient has been exhausted by protracted and severe suffering and watching, a dose different to one at the commencement of the disease is requisite. The importance of this precept is impressed on my mind, from having witnessed, in the course of my practice, several instances of the mischief which has arisen from a want of attention to it; that disease materially influences the condition of the body, and its susceptibility to remedial impressions has been already demonstrated. Emetics act very readily in febrile affections, while in those of the Neuroses they produce their effects with difficulty.

Before we quit the subject of Dose, it may be necessary to observe, that there are many remedies that do not act with greater violence in a large dose than in one comparatively small; *Ipecacuanha*, for instance, is more certain in its operation, but not more violent, when given in a large quantity; the same may be said of *Aloes*, and several other medicines.

THE VARIABLE ACTIVITY OF A MEDICINE should also be appreciated, and perhaps the practitioner would act cautiously if he were to reduce the dose, should it be a very considerable one, whenever a fresh parcel of the medicine is commenced,

especially of the powders of active vegetables liable to deterioration from being kept, as those of *Digitalis*, &c.

THE TIME OF THE DAY at which remedies should be administered deserves likewise some attention. *Evacuating Medicines* ought to be exhibited late at night, or early in the morning. It would seem that during sleep, the bowels are not so irritable, and consequently not so easily acted on, which allows time for the full solution of the substance; the same observation applies to *Alternative* and other medicines which are liable to suffer from a vexatious irritability of the bowels; it is on this account eligible to exhibit *Guaiacum*, *Pilulae Hydrargyri*, &c. when they are not intended to purge, at bedtime. On the other hand, where the effects of a remedy are likely to be lost by perspiration, as is the case with *Diuretics*, many of which are by external heat changed into *Diaphoretics*, it may become a question with the judicious practitioner whether he cannot select some more favorable period for their exhibition.

In fevers, it is important to consult in all respects the quiet and comfort of the patient; Dr. Hamilton, therefore, in his valuable work on Purgatives, very judiciously observes, that on this account, the exhibition of purgative medicines should be so timed, that their effects may be expected during the day.

In some cases, the time of administering a remedy must be regulated by the stage of the disease; thus, in fevers, a dose of opium will either increase the heat of the body, augment thirst and restlessness, or occasion tranquillity and sleep, according to the temperature of the body at the time of its administration; for this reason Dr. Currie advises us not to give the evening dose of opium in typhoid fevers, till very late, or about one or two o'clock in the morning, when the heat is subsiding, and moisture is coming on. Eme-

tics administered for the cure of the slighter cases of pyrexia should be given in the evening, as their operation leaves a tendency to sleep and diaphoresis, which it is useful to promote. Remedies that require to be absorbed will probably be more efficient in the morning after sleep; the old custom of giving medicines on a morning *fasting*, is not quite so absurd as some modern practitioners have been led to suppose.

THE INTERVALS BETWEEN EACH DOSE must be regulated by the nature of the remedy, and that of the objects which it is intended to fulfil, and whether it be desirable or not that the latter dose should support the effects of the preceding one, or whether there be any fear of a reaction or collapse taking place after the effect of one dose has subsided, unless immediately repeated; thus the effects of diffusible stimulants, such as ammonia and ether, are very evanescent; they should therefore be repeated at short intervals; the same may be said of *Diaphoretics*, especially the lenient ones; we ought not to allow the period between the doses to be so remote as to occasion any striking abatement in the impression: so opium, where its primary and stimulant operation is required, as in diseases of debility, such as fevers of the typhoid type, should be given in small doses at short intervals, so that it may enkindle and sustain a uniform and regular state of excitement: but where the object is to mitigate pain, allay irritation, and produce sleep, it ought to be exhibited in full doses, at distant intervals. There is a caution also which it is very necessary to impress on the practitioner, respecting the power which some medicines possess of accumulating in the system; this is notorious with regard to lead and mercury, and probably with the preparation of arsenic, and some other metallic compounds. Dr. Withering has observed, that the repetition of small doses

of *Digitalis*, at short intervals, till it produces a sensible effect, is an unsafe practice, since a dangerous accumulation will frequently take place before any signals of forbearance present themselves.

CONSTITUTIONAL PECULIARITIES, or IDIOSYNCRASIES, will sometimes render the operation of the mildest medicine poisonous. I have seen a general erysipelas follow the application of a blister, and griping pains of the bowels, no less severe than those produced by the ingestion of *Arsenic*, attend the operation of purgatives composed of *Senna*! In some constitutions antimony has been known to produce a ptyalism; Dr. James assured Sir George Baker that he knew six instances of it, though the patients thus affected had neither their teeth loosened, nor their breath made offensive. The peculiar susceptibility of certain individuals to the effects of particular plants, is also very singular: Murray relates that unpleasant symptoms have been experienced by merely keeping *Aconite* for some time in the hand or on the bosom. I am acquainted with two persons in whom the odor of ipecacuan always produces a most distressing difficulty of breathing: there are some idiosyncrasies so singular and incredible, that nothing but unimpeachable testimony could sanction our belief in their existence. Schenkius relates a case in which the general law of astringents and cathartics was always reversed. Donatus tells us of a boy whose jaws swelled, whose face broke out in spots, and whose lips frothed, whenever he ate an egg. Education and early habits certainly establish very extraordinary peculiarities in different countries with respect to various objects of diet and luxury: what shall we say of the refinement of the ancients, who regarded the flavor of the citron with disgust, while the odor of putrid fish was deemed by them so exquisite, that they carried it about in caskets of onyx as a favorite perfume!—*Pharmacologia*.

GYMNASISTICS.

From “A Guide to Gymnastic Exercises; as practised in the various London Gymnasiums.”

It may be truly said, that the revival of Gymnastics, so long buried under the ruins of antiquity, is one of the greatest advances yet made in the science of education, and not among the least conspicuous improvements of the present enlightened age. Every one who reflects,—every one who knows any thing, knows, and by experience, how intimate a connexion there exists between body and mind,—how invariably the healthy or sickly temperament of the one influences that of the other: that when the body is strong, healthy, and active, so is the mind cheerful and elastic, and that when the former is sickly and diseased, so is the latter languid and depressed. The ancient Greeks and Romans understood this; and their education was accordingly directed to the developement, not only of the mental, but also of the corporeal powers; and this corporeal branch of education was termed Gymnastics.

In the middle ages, however, when education got into the hands, and was at the sole disposal, of the monks, it is not surprising that Gymnastics altogether disappeared. The lords of the soil indeed, knights and princes, contended at their splendid tilts and tournaments; but the mass of the people were degraded and enslaved, the more effectually to administer to the pleasures and the pride of their oppressors. This age of chivalry, as it was termed, passed away however in succeeding ages; even these knightly games became extinct, and Gymnastics gradually losing ground, were at length reduced to the very name, known possibly to some musty philosophers who might have stumbled on it in their insane, because indiscriminate, enthusiasm, for whatever might bear the stamp of barbarism or antiquity. In modern times, however, more practical men have sprung up

amongst us—men who not only have detected, but pointed out, and, as far as in them lay, supplied the deficiency. To these men—Professors Saltzman, Gutsmuth, and Jahn, &c.—the merit of the discovery and revival of this long lost art,—“this relic of an age gone by”—is more particularly due. After a careful examination of the structure of the human body, they devised numerous exercises, arranged them in a well adapted series, and again restored Gymnastics to something like their former rank and importance.

In many towns of Germany and Switzerland, Gymnasiums were established. The youth, and even grown men, soon derived more pleasure from exercises which fortified, than in pleasures which paralysed, the powers of their bodies. By the consciousness of increased vigor, the mind too became powerfully excited, and strove for equal perfection, and the constant ambition of every pupil was to verify in his own instance, the truth of the adage, “*Mens sana in corpore sano,—A sound mind in a healthy body.*” Even the naturally indolent were irresistibly carried away by the zeal of their comrades; persons, diseased and weakly, recovered their health, for the restoration of which these exercises were possibly the only effectual remedy. The certificates of physicians wherever Gymnastics were introduced, concurred as to their healthful tendency, nor were the highest testimonials from parents and teachers found wanting. Indeed, all young men who cultivated them, were acknowledged to have improved in health and morals, and to have acquired an open, free, and graceful deportment. For three or four years past, Gymnastics have been also introduced into England; and for so limited a period have met with decided success. They have been patronized by the Government—have been adopted in the army; in the Royal Military, and Naval Schools; besides the

Charterhouse, and many private establishments. Private Gymnasiums, too, have also appeared in various parts of the metropolis, and received considerable encouragement. But in order to render Gymnastics generally beneficial, and to secure to them a permanent and a national basis, a Public Gymnasium has been established in several parts of London and the environs, for the admission of all persons of character and respectability, and on terms as nearly as possible proportioned to their pecuniary abilities. Its conduct and regulation are placed under the management of a society, formed by their own body.

In London, the birthplace as it were of invention, where the labor of her inhabitants is more exclusively mental than in any other locality, it is evident that a provision for maintaining something like an equilibrium between the energies of body and mind must be supplied, before their proverbially careworn faces and emaciated frames cease to excite the commiseration of the philanthropist,—before

“The languid eye, the cheek
Deserted of its bloom, the flaccid, shrunk,
And wither'd muscle; and the vapid soul”

shall cease to reproach, not their owners, but the bad system which has engendered these horrors, and seeks to perpetuate them.

That this institution is, and has long been, a desideratum in this huge metropolis, will be obvious to all who reflect on the impossibility of persons whose employments are sedentary, attaining, after the confinement and anxiety of the day, a requisite portion of healthful exercise and excitement to recruit and “exhilarate the spirit, and restore the tone of languid nature.” This desirable object, it will be admitted, is not accomplished by the dull, monotonous, and even the pernicious practice of listlessly strolling about the streets without a definite or a useful

motive; still less, by dissipating the remnant of their already abused faculties in the unhallowed atmosphere of the tavern or the club. To the clerk, this course will but accelerate the mischief arising from eight or ten hours' "dry drudgery at the desk's dead wood;" to the artisan, it is not calculated to ensure peaceful slumbers, and to enable him to meet the duties of the morrow "with nerves newbraced and spirits cheered."

In hypochondriacal, and all other melancholy disorders, people are too apt to acquire the notion, that mind alone is concerned; whereas, the body will usually be found to own at least an equal share, if not indeed the original, of the evil. There is a mutual reaction between them, and by lessening it on one side, you diminish the pain on both. The blood of a melancholy man is thick and slow; that of a lively man clear and quick. A natural conclusion, therefore, is, that the remedy would be found in putting the blood into action. "By ceaseless action all that is, subsists." Exercise is the best means of effecting it, as the impulse given by artificial stimuli is too sudden, the effect too transitory, and the cost to nature too great. Plato had so high an opinion of the medicinal powers of exercise for disorders of the mind, that he said it was even a cure for a wounded conscience.

CAUTION.

Mr. Tolman, of Colerain, has for some years past labored under a severe complaint, which at times led him to believe that some living creature was in his stomach, which he made known to his friends and physician, who considered him rather hypochondriacal. He still persisted in his belief, and would frequently express to his family and neighbors that he could sensibly feel the crawling of something, till a few days since, when he was attacked with severe pains, great difficulty for the

want of breath, which ended in coughing, and throwing from his stomach, to appearance, a living Evet, five and a half inches in length, and something like three inches in circumference. His health is now improving, and he will no doubt be well in a short time.

He thinks he must have drunk it more than ten years since, when drinking water at a spring in the night.—*Greenfield Gazette.*

If Mr. Tolman, or any of his neighbors, who may in future be troubled with any species of worm, or other animal capable of inhabiting the living human stomach, will, after evacuating this organ, swallow a suitable quantity of camphorated spirits of turpentine,—he will soon be relieved of his disagreeable inmate.

VAPOR BATHING.

An improved Mode of successfully Treating many obstinate Diseases, through the Agency of Fumigating, Warm Air, and Vapor Baths, with authenticated Cases, Observations, and Extracts, from the official Documents, directing this Mode of Treating Diseases, to be adopted in all the Hospitals in France, and which has rapidly been extended throughout the whole of the Continent of Europe. Dedicated to Sir Henry Halford, Bart. By JONATHAN GREEN, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and late Surgeon in His Majesty's Navy.

Excepting for vapor, no water is used in these baths. The medicines employed, such as sulphur, camphor, mercury, &c., being converted by heat into the gaseous form, as in the case of air, rarefied by the same means; the high temperature causing the absorption of medicines through the skin, and producing such extracutaneous and constitutional action, as frequently to remove

diseases which have been of long standing, and which had before resisted the most powerful and properly directed courses of medical treatment. This mode of giving medicines is peculiarly useful, where the powers of the stomach and bowels are incapable of receiving the requisite remedies, or to assist their otherwise healing power. These baths, which are diffused over the whole European continent, are now generally patronized and prescribed by the leading medical men in this island: they are pleasant and simple in their use, so much so, as to be constantly taken as a mere affair of luxury; and in the removal of gout, rheumatism, diseases of the skin, scrofula, glandular and other swellings and obstructions, diseases of the joints, and those consequent on a weakened tone of the stomach, liver, and system generally, are of the highest value and importance.—*London Monthly.*

We have Mr. Green's book and directions, and are prepared to give his baths, every day, at 3, Central Court. The best time for the vapor, and other baths, is from 11 o'clock, A. M., to 2, P. M.

DEATH OF DR. BARCLAY.

The professional world has lately lost one of its brightest ornaments, in the person of Dr. JOHN BARCLAY, the celebrated teacher of anatomy in Edinburgh, who died at his house in Argyle Square, on the 21st of August. Dr. BARCLAY was originally destined for the Church, but turning his attention to physic, he took his Doctor's degree in 1796, and soon after commenced the teaching of anatomy and surgery, in which he was eminently successful. Few teachers have left behind them a greater reputation, and few authors more durable proofs of industry and talent. His works on *Anatomical Nomenclature*, on *Muscular Motion*, on *Arteries*, and

on *Life and Organization*, are too well known and valued to stand in need of our eulogy. The Nomenclature which applies to the same parts in all positions of the body, and in all animals, cannot be too highly prized, or too implicitly followed, if precision of language be desirable in anatomical disquisitions, whether human or comparative, in the lecture-room, or in books. Dr. Barclay's Museum, which, according to the Edinburgh Journal of Science, is given to the College of Surgeons of that city, "with a reservation in favor of his successor, Dr. Knox, is a noble monument of that zeal for the science he taught, with which he not only animated himself, but inspired his auditors." His age was sixtysix.

Lancet.

It is with regret that we announce the death of SCARPA, formerly Professor of Surgery in the University of Pavia. VACCA BERLINGIERI, or as he was more frequently called VACCA, died a short time before. Thus Italy in a short time has lost two of her brightest ornaments in the medical profession. We are promised some account of the lives of these eminent men from our Italian correspondent.—*Ib.*

SMALLPOX.

A case of smallpox occurred in this city last week, which terminated fatally on Sunday. The young lady who was the subject of it had been keeping school, but how the disease was communicated is not known. We are informed that another case exists in York Street.

We mention these facts as well for the purpose of cautioning others as to express our astonishment that any person in this community should have arrived to years of discretion without having been the subject of vaccination, the only sure remedy for this dreadful malady. The ease and facility of vaccination leave no ground for excuse, and parents and guardians must lay to themselves the neg-

lect of an important personal and public duty, and bear the charge of bringing this "evil on the city."

New Haven (Conn.), Herald.

TO TAKE SPOTS OF GREASE OUT OF
BOOKS OR PAPER.

After having gently warmed the paper that is stained with grease, wax, oil, or any other fat body, take up as much as possible of it by means of blotting paper; then dip a small brush in the essential oil of turpentine, heated almost to ebullition, for when cold it acts only very weakly, and draw it gently over both sides of the paper, which must be carefully kept warm. This operation must be repeated as many times as the quantity of the fat body imbibed by the paper, or the thickness of the paper, may render necessary. When the greasy substance is entirely removed recourse may be had to the following method to restore the paper to its former whiteness, which is not completely restored by the first process. Dip another brush in highly rectified spirit of wine, and draw it in like manner over the place which was stained, and particularly round the edges, to remove the border that would still present a stain. By employing these means with proper caution, the spot will totally disappear, the paper will assume its original whiteness, and if the process has been employed on a part written on with common ink, or printed with printer's ink, it will experience no alteration.

TO REMOVE THE STAINS OF FRUIT AND
WINE.

These are best removed by a watery solution of the oxygenated muriatic acid, or by that of oxygenated muriate of potash or lime, to which a little sulphuric acid has been added. The stained spots may be steeped in one of these solutions till it is discharged; but the solution can only be applied with safety to white goods, because the uncombin-

ed oxygenated acid discharges all printed and dyed colors. A convenient mode of applying the oxygenated acid, easily practicable by persons who have not the apparatus for saturating water with the gas, is as follows: Put about a table spoonful of muriatic acid, spirits of sea salt, into a tea cupful, and add to it about a tea spoonful of powdered manganese; then set this cup in a larger one filled with hot water; moisten the stained spot with water, and expose it to the fumes that arise from the tea cup. If the exposure be continued a sufficient length of time, the stain will disappear.

TO REMOVE SPOTS OF GREASE FROM
CLOTH.

Spots of grease may be removed by a diluted solution of potash; but this must be cautiously applied, to prevent injury to the cloth. Stains of white wax, which sometimes fall on the clothes from wax candles, are removable by spirit of turpentine, or sulphuric ether. The marks of white paint may also be discharged by the last mentioned agents.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, DEC. 19, 1826.

THE TWO EXTREMES.

Some persons who are well, and who want nothing but a belief of the fact to make them sensible of it, are still restless and uneasy, and deem it quite necessary, in order to prevent being sick, to be taking some remedy,—some pill, a celebrated powder, or it may be some catholicon, which is equally efficacious as a prophylactic or cure. Others, again, who are daily or hourly becoming seriously ill, think it a weakness to complain or lie by, preferring to brave it out, till they can no longer move or keep silence. Now suddenly they are very sick, probably

alarmed at last, and the doctor is sent for in great haste. These last mentioned patients form the greater part of the physician's harvest, for what at first would have been relieved or removed by two or three visits, will now require, when well fixed and settled, the attendance of as many weeks or months. Thus both classes lose sight of their true interest, and deviate from the rational medium.

What better can the healthy man do than to continue in that way of life which has made him so, being always cautious, temperate and grateful? And what better the sick man, than to apply in season for that aid which he cannot give himself, and by delaying to do which he incurs the risk of severe suffering, of expense, loss of time, and loss of life? He who pays the least attention to the preservation of his health when he possesses it, generally behaves with the least propriety when he has lost it. And this might be expected; for he who pays the least regard to what is incumbent and expedient in one respect, is most likely to conduct with equal indiscretion in another.

Good health is a blessing which, like all other valuable possessions, requires for its attainment, preservation and security,—thought, effort, and selfcontrol; and he who loses it by negligence, imprudence or excesses, cannot consistently complain of his pains and privations. Means are everywhere to be used for the attainment of ends. Yet so unreasonable are many men, that after having undervalued and wasted

the treasures conferred on them, they are of all their race the most querulous and despondent.

The most convenient and satisfactory way of reading a paper folded and paged as this is, is first to sew the leaves together, and then to cut them open.

DICTIONARY.

Alteratives, such medicines as gradually change the system from a diseased to a sound state, without any sensible operation.

Ammonia, volatile alkali, sal volatile.

Antiseptic, resisting putrefaction.

Catholicon, a panacea or universal medicine.

Diaphoresis, a gentle perspiration.

Hemorrhoids, piles.

Neuroses, nervous diseases.

Pilulae Hydrargyri, mercurial pills.

Ptyalism, salivation, an increased flow of saliva.

Pyrexia, fever; *pyrexiae*, febrile diseases.

Septic, favoring putrefaction.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

THE MEDICAL LECTURES in *Brown University*, R. I. will be commenced on the third Thursday in February, 1827, and be continued about three months. Tickets to all the Lectures—\$40.

WELLS & LILLY

HAVE just published GOOD'S BOOK OF NATURE, in 2 vols. 8vo.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

THE Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College, will commence on Tuesday, the 20th day of February, 1827.

Theory and Practice of Physic by DANIEL OLIVER, M. D. Professor of the same department at Hanover, N. H.

Anatomy and Surgery by J. D. WELLS, M. D.

Midwifery by J. M'KEAN, M. D.

Chemistry and Materia Medica by P. CLEAVELAND, M. D.

The *Anatomical Cabinet* is very valuable and extensive.

The Library is one of the best Medical Libraries in New England; and is every year enriched by new works, both foreign and domestic.

Every person becoming a member of this Institution, is required to present satisfactory evidence, that he possesses a good moral character.

Citizens of Maine in indigent circumstances may have *surgical operations* performed, free of expense, if brought into the vicinity of the College during the Course.—As a reduction in the price of boarding is an object of importance to many, arrangements have been made, which, it is hoped, may effect this object to a considerable extent.

Brunswick, September 26, 1826.

SAILOR'S PHYSICIAN.

RICHARDSON & LORD have been appointed by the proprietors agents for the sale of "SAILOR'S PHYSICIAN, containing Medical Advice for Seamen and other persons at Sea, on the Treatment of Diseases, and on the preservation of Health in sickly climates. By Usher Parsons, M. D., formerly of the United States Navy—2d edition."

MEDICINES, SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, &c.

A FULL assortment of DRUGS, MEDICINES, CHEMICALS, SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, and other articles in the line, for sale on the most accommodating terms, by BARTLETT & BREWER, at the sign of the *Good Samaritan*, No. 92, Washington street, late 13, Cornhill.

JUST published, and for sale by MUNROE & FRANCIS, and RICHARDSON & LORD, the *Philadelphia Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences*, edited by N. Chapman, M. D. Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic and Clinical Practice in the University of Pennsylvania; W. P. Dewees, M. D. Adjunct Professor of Midwifery in the University of Pennsylvania; and John D. Godman, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Medical College of N. York. No. 25, for November, 1826.

PUBLICATION OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL RECORDER,

No. 24, South Eighth Street, Philadelphia.

SOME time ago a premium for the best Essay on the Suppression of Hemor-

rhage was offered; the premium has been awarded to H. G. Jameson, M. D., Surgeon to the Baltimore Hospital, and the essay will be published in the next No. 33, of the Recorder, now in the press; also, communications from the following gentlemen, namely;—Dr. Hewson's interesting case of Umbilical Hernia, Dr. Cross, of Lexington, Ky. on the Circulation of the Blood; Dr. Mitchener on Fever; Papers furnished by the Medical Society of Virginia; Mr. Gardette on Diseases of the Teeth; &c. &c., besides some interesting Reviews of recent medical publications.

The departments of Analysis of American and Foreign Medical Journals, Anlecta and Medical Intelligence, will be supplied, with all the new and important medical information of the day.

With a view to crowd more matter into the Journal, it is intended to enlarge each number, commencing with the one now in the press.

RICHARDSON & LORD, Agents,
Boston.

ATHENEUM: OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.

FOR DECEMBER 15,

JUST published by John Cotton, 184 Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St.
CONTENTS.—The Barber of Gottingen—Gymnastics—The Widow's Nuptials—A Watery Grave—Elijah's Interview with God—The Widow and her Son—Travels in the Subterraneous Regions of the Globe—Inch-Cruin, the Island of the Afflicted—Coaches and Sedans—The Condemned Cell—The Lantern in the Castle-Yard—Method of Burning Lime without Kilns—Scotch Song—Improved Process of Printing or Dyeing Woollen and other Fabrics.

PURIFIED PYRO LIGNEOUS ACID.

THE use of this article is a perfect substitute for the common process of smoking Meat; and the flavor of Hams, &c. prepared with it, is fully equal, if not superior, to that given in smoking. One quart is sufficient for 150 or 200 pounds of meat. It is used by simply bathing the hams with the acid three or four times; or by mixing it with the pickle which is put to the pork. The above Acid is constantly kept for sale in barrels, kegs, and bottles, at 70, Court-street, by JOSEPH KIDDER.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1826.

NO. 32.

As a number of persons have mistaken the intention of this paper, it has been thought proper to say that its chief object is to promote Health, by pointing out the more common and prevalent causes of disease, and the means of avoiding or of counteracting them. Health may also be promoted by invigorating and confirming the feeble and valetudinary, and thus rendering them superior to the influence of atmospheric changes and other sources of physical derangement, by which, though harmless to the robust, the tender and susceptible are always in danger of falling into sickness. It is intended to be intelligible to all classes of readers, that it may be made conducive to the improvement and preservation of all.

The Medical Intelligencer in its present size, with its present editor, views and objects, takes its origin from the No. published on the 3d of October last. It is now adapted and intended for the public generally, as well as for the medical profession. The present volume began May 23, 1826.

We omitted the following article last week in the hope of obtaining an engraving of the instruments referred to by the author in his communication; but finding this imprac-

ticable from the drawing sent us, we now publish the *remarks* without reference to the instruments. We hope, however, that Dr. T. will, on some future occasion, publish his essay with a representation of his instruments, as they seem to be essential to his successful practice.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

REMARKS ON BRONCHOTOMY.

BY AMASA TROWBRIDGE, M. D.

Prompted by a consideration of the sacred obligation of fulfilling that duty which every practitioner of surgery owes to the public, of rendering an account of his efforts to diminish the ills incident to his fellow beings, as well as by a desire of adding some practical information to the art of surgery, I am induced to fulfil my promise to send you some remarks and views on the operation of Bronchotomy. Annexed are some drawings of a set of instruments, and a representation of the mode of using them, referred to in your paper of the 7th inst.

The science of surgery in the present age, more than any other, has been enriched by the diligence and zeal which have been displayed in its cul-

tivation. Efforts made, have often been rewarded by useful discoveries: no branch of knowledge can boast of more useful improvements than this.

In books of surgery, various views are taken of the subject under consideration. Some seem to be founded on theory and the principles of anatomy; some on demonstrations made on the dead subject; and some from practical observations and results. A knowledge of the anatomy of the parts, and an operation on the dead subject for the demonstration of rules to be guided by, is in many instances entirely satisfactory. We meet with no other difficulty on the living subject than what we encounter on the dead. But it is far otherwise in the operation of bronchotomy. We must remember that operating on the dead subject gives but an imperfect view of all the difficulties to be encountered on the living: here we meet with strong convulsive action of the lungs, trachea, and all the muscles concerned in deglutition and respiration, through the whole operation.

Samuel Cooper, in his system of Surgery, as well as others, in classing cases that may require operations, have taken a general, circumstantial, and minute survey of the subject, and have left but little to be gleaned by succeeding inquir-

ers. Mr. C. has very fully accomplished the object he had in view in this particular. The trachea, in its various connexions with other organs, is very complicated; and had Mr. C. as a teacher of surgery made anatomically a development of these separate portions, or considered them in their pathological relations, how they are affected separately and simultaneously under local and general diseases, the laws of their organization, functions, irritability, and the sympathies they maintain with each other and the whole system, he would have brought to view more fully the difficulties to be met with by the surgeon, and would have been more explicit and full in describing the symptoms by which his different cases would be more easily distinguished and comprehended.

According to the plans heretofore adopted in operating, it would be a matter of considerable moment to establish some guide in deciding on those circumstances which ought to induce us to operate. In this estimate, the weight which a number of circumstances of a minute and incidental character should have on the determination and conduct of the operator, must be left very much to his judgment and experience. I regret, that I shall not be able in these lim-

ited remarks, to enumerate some circumstances and symptoms which I have obtained from experience, which would go to distinguish the various affections found in the classifications of Mr. Cooper.

According to general opinion, the following cases may call for the operation of bronchotomy, and by Mr. Cooper are divided into two classes; in the first class, circumstances are enumerated when the only indication is, to make an opening for the continuance of respiration. In the second, the surgeon has a further object, of extracting a foreign body from the trachea or larynx, or some particular cause for exposing the parietes of these parts. The first class comprehends all cases of suspended animation, from drowning, hanging, or the inhaling of gases, and various species of angina; tumors formed so as to compress the trachea; the lodgment of a substance in the œsophagus and pressing against the trachea, and wounds of the neck when excessive inflammation and swelling obstruct respiration; swelling of the tongue, &c. Under allthese circumstances, when patients have perished, it is inferred, if timely openings had been made into the trachea, that many might have been saved. All writers on this subject agree, that the ultimate resource is either

opening and placing tubes, or the introduction of elastic catheters through the nostrils into the glottis. The difficulty and delay in adopting the latter mode, even on the inanimate subject; and the irritation and distress produced when attempted on the living—for it is often the cause itself of suffocation, and the spasmodic action of the glottis, by it, has produced death,—are facts so strong and conclusive against this mode of relief, that further comment is unnecessary. I must believe, that gentlemen who recommend this course, do it more from theory than experience. Opening and placing tubes is attended with much difficulty and uncertainty, as particularly detailed in my remarks quoted in your paper of the 7th. I have become convinced on this part of the subject, that efforts which are proper in regard to the object intended, may fail and even become hurtful from the way in which they are made.

In the second class are placed those cases where foreign bodies are lodged in the larynx, trachea or bronchial tubes; the formation of extraneous bodies, or morbid portions in some of these parts. Here the operator is not only to give passage for the air in inspiration and respiration, but also to remove the substance which occasions the obstruc-

tion of respiration. In this process, again, there is much difference of opinion among those who teach surgery, as well as those who practise it. Fabricius, an ancient writer, says, "bronchotomy is an operation that is proper in several cases, and requires being differently practised according to a variety of circumstances." He leaves the subject much as he found it, involved in difficulties and perplexities: he might have advised more had it not been for the doctrine of his time, that wounds of cartilages were incurable.

Some ancient and modern writers represent the operation as being attended with but little danger, and of so trifling a nature that they have not troubled themselves about the mode of operating or the instruments to be used. Others have entertained different views, and from the difficulties and ill success attending operations of this nature, have condemned them as a dangerous and unjustifiable mode of attempting relief. Two modes of operating are finally settled on by the more experienced and reflecting surgeons of modern times. One consists in making an opening, by slitting up the thyroid cartilage longitudinally; this is done under a supposition that the offending body is generally near this point, and if not found here,

the incision would be extended through the cricoid cartilage. All the instruments recommended in this operation, were, a scalpel, director, straight and curved forceps, and a canula; and if these were not at hand, a *penknife and lancet*. The particular mode of using these instruments is explained by Mr. Cooper. The other, preferred by some, is to begin the operation below the cricoid cartilage on the face of the trachea, and continue it down through several of the rings. The same instruments, with the addition of a spatula, or *something else*, to keep open the incision; or to remove a piece of the trachea sufficient to leave an artificial opening for respiration.

As my mode of operating can meet the circumstances of every case where an operation is necessary, I proceed to describe it.

I place my patient on a narrow table, with a twisted pillow, or some elastic substance large enough to support the neck, placed between the head and shoulders. An assistant sits behind the head, and presses it down, so as to raise the neck, with his hands, one on each side of the head, and the forefinger applied to the chin to support it firmly. An assistant sits on each side to keep the arms and breast steady, and one at the feet. Standing

on the right side of the patient, if operating for the removal of a loose substance, within the trachea, I ascertain the place of the cricoid cartilage, pass the thumb and forefinger of my left hand from it on each side of the trachea about an inch, pressing the integuments moderately down till I feel the trachea rising between my thumb and finger. I begin my incision with a scalpel, having a very thin blade and round edge and point, over the cricoid cartilage, and carry it through the integuments downwards sufficient to expose one inch of the trachea of an adult, and four of its rings on a child. I now place the hooks for retracting on each side at the centre of this incision, and give them to my assistants, who by these keep the wound well open. On a subject of some age the thyroid veins and the sternohyoidic and thyroideic muscles may be readily seen and pushed aside, and the trachea presented to view; but if the patient is very young, there is much difficulty in doing this, and after dissecting the integuments a little from the part, I make an incision corresponding with the first quite to the trachea, with light strokes of the knife. The hooks are now disengaged, and again placed so as to include all the divided parts. Any bleeding vessels are now secured with

the tenaculum and a single thread. The operator must remember that powerful bleeding may take place, as I have once experienced, owing to the variety in the course of the arteries and veins, which sometimes pass obliquely across the trachea. After the bleeding is restrained, and the trachea sufficiently exposed, divide the middle part horizontally by passing in the point of the round pointed, double edged scalpel. This makes an incision sufficient to receive the point of the curved pointed scalpel, which is used for extending the incision up or down as far as is necessary, by cutting forward or out. The blades of the distender are now pressed together and placed in the centre of the divided trachea; and its elastic power will keep open the parts, so that respiration can be carried on freely and easily, any loose bodies expelled by coughing, and the long and curved forceps may be introduced to extract a large body when it appears at the incision, quite down to the bifurcation; if necessary, another pair may be carried up, so as to remove any body lodged there. The bougie, with a sponge fixed to the extremity, may be introduced and pushed through to the larynx, carrying with it any foreign body. If there should be any extra-

neous formation in the glottis, or any of these parts to be removed, the division of the croid cartilage may be made by extending the incision up; but in this case, I commence the operation over the thyroid cartilage, and do not carry it so low as in the operation for the other object.

I have said before, that convulsive action attends us in every step of this operation. Instruments used, ought, then, to be sufficiently strong to meet this formidable difficulty. In using a lancet, its point has been broken: in using a common bistoury to dilate the trachea, it has been thrust between the rings, and made an unfortunate incision. The instruments I now use are calculated to meet the prominent and most important difficulties the surgeon has to surmount in this delicate and distressing operation. In closing the wound I formerly used the ligature, passed deeply so as to include a large portion of the integuments; but I have recently been more pleased with passing pins, such as are used for uniting parts in the case of harelip; they are used by raising a large portion of the integuments including the wound through them, between the fingers, and passing pins sufficient to unite the parts firmly, beginning in the centre. If swelling and inflammation

should impede respiration, the centre pin, and below if necessary, can be removed, which will obviate this difficulty till inflammation subsides, when they can be replaced and the passage closed again.

The surgeon, unfortunately, is called to do this operation principally on children; and strong objections are urged against it, on the ground that they are unable to bear it. From much observation, I am persuaded that they bear it better than adults. Children, under any disease, or operation, always display strong attachment to life, and great strength of constitution. They recover more speedily from wounds and operations; and recruit with greater rapidity after being reduced, either by disease, or remedies of any description. On these accounts, the surgeon ought not to hesitate when life is in danger; armed with all that is necessary, sustained by hope, and acting on correct principles, to put in operation his restoring process. Were this course more generally pursued in cases that require bronchotomy, I am fully persuaded that the surgeon would be rewarded by such results as would reflect lustre on the art, and give to his skill a glorious triumph.

Watertown, N. Y. }
Nov. 1826. }

The following remarks on *Temperature and Fashion*, are from Dr DEWEES' Treatise on the Physical and Medical Treatment of Children. We shall take an early opportunity of laying before our readers his sentiments on *Exposure* and *Hardenning*.

OF TEMPERATURE.

Children of tender age, should never be suddenly subjected to great changes of temperature;* whether the change be from a high to a low one, or the reverse; therefore, children born in a cold climate, and in cold weather, cannot safely be placed suddenly in a very cold atmosphere, without great and immediate risk. It is true, we may guard their little bodies against the influence of cold, so effectually as to receive no injury; but we cannot protect much more important parts with the same security—for their lungs must receive the cold air within them, and hence the danger.

But the danger just alluded to, does not arise so much from the immediate effects of cold air on these organs, as from the subsequent effects of the warm air on them, and in which they must necessarily sooner or later be placed. Violent reaction soon follows the state of torpor, which the cold air imposed on the lungs; and inflammation, catarrh, or cough, will almost certainly be the result.

A sudden attempt to "harden a child" as it is called, in cold weather, is but another determination to see how much a child can bear, without dying under the experiment. This scheme, a scheme founded neither in reason, nor experience, has had, to our certain knowledge, too many victims, not to deter parents against the preposterous and dangerous practice.

We would ask what has given rise to so decided a preference in favor of the system of exposure? This question would be difficult to answer, on rational principles, or correct observation. It has proceeded without doubt, from some general fact relating to the effects of cold; as the general bracing effect of a pretty low temperature on the body; but without taking into view the various circumstances, which were essential to its favorable operation; for instance, with the mercury down to 10 degrees of Fahrenheit, let two men, every circumstance being equal but that of clothing, engage in such an atmosphere, at any kind of active employment, for a certain number of hours; the one, to be sufficiently clad to prevent, when at rest, any very great inconvenience from the cold; the other, less well protected; the latter would require exercise, to prevent suffering. At the expiration of the assigned period, what would be the respective situation of these men? The one would be found to have performed his task without difficulty, or much fatigue: the other would be seen to have performed either less work, or be much more exhausted; for in order to do as much work as the other, he would have to labor much harder, to keep up the same degree of animal heat; or he will have performed much less, and suffered much from the benumbing effects of cold. This is found to be the case also with animals, especially horses. Where then is the advantage of this sudden attempt at bracing with cold? Besides, as regards the human constitution, and especially that of children, it is agreeable to the observation of all medical men, that those children who are properly and sufficiently clad, are freer from disease, than those erroneously exposed for the purpose of hardening them.

It is undoubtedly true, that those who may have survived the ordeal of winter exposures, are generally

* Nor should their eyes be exposed to sudden and strong light. We have frequently seen severe inflammation of these parts, follow such incautious conduct.

best confirmed in their after health; but this only proves the strength of original constitution, since it stood the severe tests to which it had been exposed; but we are not informed of the fiftyfold failures of the experiment. Let us apply this reasoning to the effects of extreme heat, and see how ill the analogy, though correct, will bear us out; or how few would be willing to have recourse to the trial. It is a matter notorious to every one, that the emigrants to the West India islands, or other hot climates, who survive the "seasoning," enjoy for the most part the best possible health; and perhaps these places will furnish as many instances of longevity, as almost any other parts of the world; but would any one give these instances as proofs of the healthfulness of exposure to a vertical sun, or as a means to acquire long life? Would not any one to whom such a proposition was made, directly declare, that the great number of victims, to the few instances of success, are entirely concealed?

It would seem to be a point acknowledged by all writers on the treatment of children, that extensive and deadly effects are constantly witnessed, arising from variability of climate, and from unnecessary or unavoidable exposure in cold weather. The great increase of acute, as well as of chronic affections during the winter, would seem to confirm this impression. In our mutable climate, the consequences of unavoidable exposure of the children of the poor to all its inclemencies, are familiar to the observation of every one who may have felt an interest in the claims of humanity; and so far as we can collect from these observations, the opinion appears to be concurrent, that much suffering, great increase of disease, and an augmented mortality are the constant results. Let us not then hear any more of the arguments derived from this class of people, in support of the unstable

hypothesis, that the health of the children of the poor is a proof of the advantage of exposure to harden the body against cold, or to confirm the system against disease.

We are aware, that instances of the entire success of this plan, may be quoted against us; that Mrs. A,B, C, &c. accustomed their chiidren to such exposure; and it will be triumphantly asked, "where can you find finer, or more healthy children?" But we would ask in our turn, can they furnish us with an equally faithful list of those, who have died from the experiment? If they could, the argument would not be urged a second time.

The occasional success of a hazardous experiment, is very often productive of the most serious evils; it is followed as an example, when it should have been regarded but as an exception; nor is the error corrected, but at the expense oftentimes of many lives. Thus, for the supposed cure of an obstinate disease by an ignorant quack, the patient, grateful for his recovery, attributes to the skill of his attendant, and the virtue of his remedies, what justly belongs to the strength of his own constitution, or the favorable efforts of nature; and if they fail a hundred times in other instances, the disappointments are concealed; for each is ashamed to declare, he had reposed confidence in the remedies—therefore the supposed success is alone heard of.

OF FASHION.

Fashion has also exerted a most baleful influence over the best feelings of the mother, by rendering her willing to sacrifice the health and wellbeing of her offspring to its shrine, in spite of the remonstrances of reason, and of common sense. The preposterous, and unsightly exposure of the arms of children, cannot be too loudly reprehended, since it has neither convenience, nor beauty to recommend it; yet is it

attended by the most serious, and manifest injury to the child. This practice may be perpetuated, by an ignorance of its dangerous tendency ; and from the desire to give to the body a greater power of resistance to cold. This system of hardening, we have in several places condemned, rather from the manner in which it is attempted, than from its impracticability, if properly conducted. In order however to render any plan effective, a knowledge of certain anatomical and physiological facts, is essential ; and we shall accordingly expose them in the best manner we can, as occasion may present itself. But on no occasion perhaps, shall we have it in our power so satisfactorily to show the injurious effects of cold on the chest and lungs, as in the custom we are now attempting to expose. The cautions suggested by the exposition we shall give, will be the more valuable, as they will strike the common sense of every body ; and they will be the better appreciated, as the facts are the result of anatomical investigation, and not the deductions from preconceived theory.

Portal, in a memoir, inserted in "La Médecine Eclarée," p. 335, shows with much clearness, the connection between the lungs and the superior extremities, by means of a great quantity of spongy cellular membrane, which proceeds from the upper parts of these organs ; which after passing under the clavicles, and accompanying the axillary vessels and nerves, penetrates the glands of the armpits. The spaces between the scapulae and the upper ribs, are occupied by this tissue ; so also is the great pectoral, and dorsal muscles, under which it passes, and extends itself to the muscles of the back, and those of the breast. The free and prompt communication between the lungs and upper extremities, is proved, M. Portal informs us, by injections. And nature may in part be imitated by the anatomist ;

for if he inject water into the cellular tissue of the lungs, it will be found to pass from air cell to air cell, till it arrives at the external part of the breast, and under the armpit ; whence it spreads itself to the arms and lateral parts of the chest, by means of the tissue just spoken of. M. Portal declares, he has reversed this experiment, by making water, or air, pass from the arms, or armpits, to the air cells of the lungs. From these facts the deductions are clear—namely, that whatever does injury to the upper parts of the arms, or armpits, will be felt by the lungs, &c. ; hence the injury which must necessarily arise from the exposure of these parts to the cold, &c. ; and hence, in a practical point of view, the importance of remedial means to these parts, in cases of disease of the lungs ; and hence, in children born of consumptive parents, the necessity and importance of having these parts sufficiently protected from cold by suitable covering.

EXCESSIVE STUDY, OR APPLICATION OF MIND.

" — Universal plodding poisons up
The nimble spirits in the arteries ;
As motion and longduring action tires
The sinewy vigor of the traveller."

Love's Labor Lost.

Though intemperate study be not one of those modes of excess, against which it is peculiarly necessary to guard the youth of the present generation ; there is no one, I am convinced, from which more mischievous and dreadful consequences have originated. Too often talents have been sacrificed to acquisitions, and knowledge furnished at the expense of understanding. Literary gluttons may not unfrequently be met with, who, intent only on feeding a voracious appetite for books, accumulate gradually a mass of indigested matter, which oppresses, and in time destroys altogether the power of intellectual assimilation. The learning of such men lies a dead weight on

the mind; and, instead of enriching its substance, or adding to its vigor, serves only to obstruct the freedom, or to impede the activity of its operations. The mental enlargement which is thus produced, may be compared, not to that natural and healthy growth which is attended by a proportionate increase of strength, but rather to the distension of tympanites, or to the morbid dilatation of a dropsy. What is called a learned man, is often only a lazy man in disguise, with whom reading is a refuge from the more strenuous task of reflection. A reformation has taken place with regard to literature as well as religion. With the more rational part of mankind, wisdom is no longer thought to consist in poring over books, any more than counting beads is now regarded as devotion.

Many years ago I was consulted with respect to an idiotic man of erudition. It was a case of idiocy arising from an overstrained intellect. The understanding had been broken down, in consequence of having been overloaded. The head of the patient, in its best estate, might have been compared to a pawnbroker's shop, which is furnished principally with other people's goods; a repository merely for ideas, not a soil out of which an idea ever grew.

Since the occurrence of the preceding case, I was desired to give my opinion in another, which was considerably different in the circumstances attending it, though originating apparently from a somewhat similar cause. A young man of very superior talents, a member at that time of one of the colleges of Oxford, had applied most intensely to his studies, with a view to the acquisition of the highest honors of the university, which, however, he was suddenly thrown into despair of attaining, by some new and unexpected rules, that were introduced with regard to the mode or the subject of the examinations. There was no

just ground for his despondency in consequence of this innovation; but the idea of possible defeat, where he had been previously confident of victory, so dwelt on, and harassed his mind, as to throw it at last into a state of temporary disorder, and the most excessive irritation. This irritation was accompanied by a singular and sometimes ludicrous caprice. He deliberated for a long time before he could determine on the most indifferent proceeding: and he had scarcely acted on one, before he invariably repented of his decisions. I remember calling on him one afternoon, and finding him still in bed, from not having as yet been able to determine whether he should put on his pantaloons, or small clothes, for the day. He at length fixed on the latter; but had not been long risen, before he changed that for a different dress. Everything he did, he regretted having done; and of what he had neglected to do, he regretted the omission.

It was for no long period that the patient remained in this state of imbecility. He recovered, after a time, the entire possession of his excellent understanding; obtained all the objects of his academical ambition; and is at present a very respectable member of a learned profession.

Though the intellectual faculties will always be in danger of debility or disorder from the too intense or too long continued exercise of them; this will be still more likely to take place, when the exercise of them has been confined to one or but a few subjects. By sufficiently diversifying the mode, we may protract almost indefinitely the period of exertion. Change of employment is often found to answer the same end as entire cessation from it. The sense of fatigue, for instance, which we experience from the use of our limbs, may be relieved, not merely by rest, but also by again using them in a different manner. On a similar principle, if we have been

reading, or thinking on any subject till the attention be exhausted, we almost uniformly find the mind to be again aroused and invigorated by directing it to a subject of a different nature. A person in whose constitution there is reason to suspect a tendency to mental disorder, not only ought to be guarded against too long protracted or intense thinking: but it should be recommended to him to avoid, as much as possible, thinking on questions of a very intricate and perplexing nature.

There are few walks of literature in which he may not be allowed to amuse himself, provided he shuns with care the endless labyrinth of metaphysical speculation. Scarcely can it appear desirable, or even safe to attend much to subjects, where the restlessness of doubt so seldom terminates in the repose of conviction; or at least, where the labor of the research is never likely to be rewarded by the importance of the discovery.

Dr. Reid.

EXPERIMENTS ON PULMONARY EXHALATION.

By M. Breschet and Mr. Milne Edwards.

The experiments of Nysten and Majendie, are well known to have proved that certain liquid and gaseous substances introduced into the blood, are speedily expelled by exhalation through the lungs. It is for the purpose of explaining this fact, that the present experiments have been made.

Thinking that exhalation differed in no manner from absorption, but by acting in a reversed way, we imagined that the exhalation ought to be accelerated by every force which attracted the fluids from within outwards, as well as that absorption would be facilitated by that which pushes the fluids from without inwards. We supposed that inspiration was the principal agent, and that it ought to bring the fluids of the body mechanically to the surface of the mucous membrane of the lungs, while it caused the air to enter into

these organs. To put this opinion to the test, we adapted a tube to the windpipe of a living dog, which communicated with a bellows, and afterwards opened pretty extensively the thorax of the animal. The natural breathing was immediately suspended; but by artificial inflation, we produced a constant pressure on the pulmonary cells, without the alternate movements of inspiration and expiration. Six grains of alcoholized camphor were now introduced into the peritoneum of this animal, while the same quantity was introduced into the peritoneum of another, the respiration of which was natural. In the latter animal, the pulmonary perspiration, mixed with the substance introduced, appeared from three to six minutes after its application, while in the former animal it did not appear at all. Part of the muscles of the abdomen being laid bare, and a cuppingglass applied, the camphorated alcoholic smell was soon sensible from the uncovered surface. Thus, from the time the pulmonary surface had ceased to be acted on by the force of the inspiration, the exhalation from the lungs ceased to emit the substances contained in the blood. On the contrary, the cutaneous exhalation emitted along with it these substances, as soon as the part was submitted to the sucking power of the cuppingglass.

A certain quantity of the essential oil of turpentine was injected into the crural veins of two dogs, one of which was allowed to breathe naturally, whilst the lungs of the other were in a state of compression. In the first animal, the pulmonary exhalation speedily smelled of the essential oil, and on opening the body, the lungs and pleura seemed more impregnated than the other tissues. In the second animal, this oil did not appear to be in greater quantity in the lungs than in the other tissues, such as the pleura and peritoneum. It appeared as if all the tissues had been equally impregnated. Thus,

in the first case, the sucking action of inspiration appeared to have drawn into the pulmonary perspiration all the turpentine, and to have attracted it from the other tissues. On the contrary, in the second, the pulmonary surface, deprived of all sucking power, had not been penetrated by the turpentine more than any of the other tissues, and just in the same proportion.

A solution of phosphorus in oil of turpentine, was injected into the crural vein of a dog, in which artificial respiration was kept up. The result was, that the phosphorus speedily became evident in the pulmonary exhalation, but was not perceived in a cuppingglass applied to the external surface of the stomach. This contradiction is explained, by supposing with Majendie, that the fat oil could not pass the capillaries of the pulmonary artery, and consequently could not reach the breast and arterial system; and that, stopped in the capillary vessels of the lungs, the contractions of the right ventricle caused it at last to drop through the cells of the lungs. Finally, we remarked, that all the parts of the skin did not answer with the same facility to a cuppingglass. The skin of the thigh, for example, less easily than the skin over the stomach. The conclusions which have been made from these experiments are, that the suction which accompanies every movement of breathing, is the cause which expels the liquid and gaseous substances accidentally mixed with the blood, more particularly by the pulmonary exhalation, than by the other exhalant surfaces of the body.—*Archives Générales.*

Two or three physicians in Litchfield, Conn. a short time since, issued circulars proposing the establishment of a medical school in that town; and to give respectability to the concern, published as one of their lecturers, the name of a Dr. Sheldon. This

gentleman has published an article declaring he has nothing to do with the matter, and requesting that his name may be withdrawn from the list of professors.—If the *ostensible* was the *real* object of these gentlemen,—namely, the advancement of science,—we cannot but think they would turn their attention to the support of schools already in operation, rather than to the establishment of new ones. It is an obvious fact, that a sufficient number of medical schools now exist in New England; and, without entertaining any fears of the one abovementioned, we think it must be evident that every additional school will tend to lessen the usefulness of those already existing, without aiding in any good degree the advancement of medical science, or conferring any substantial benefit on the profession.

OIL FOR CLOCKS, WATCHES, AND OTHER
FINE INSTRUMENTS.

Within a few years a M. Chevreul has devoted a great portion of his time to the analysis of animal substances, and has made some remarkable and valuable discoveries. It results from his investigation, that all fat is composed of two distinct substances: one of which, called *elain*, remains fluid at the ordinary temperature of the atmosphere; the other, called *stearine*, easily becomes solid. The former should be used for all instruments of a delicate nature, to which oil is applied, to prevent friction. It is thus obtained: oil or fat is exposed to the action of eight times its own weight of alcohol, nearly boiling; the liquid is then poured off, and, on cooling, the stearine separates in crystals. The alcohol is then evaporated to the fifth part of the volume of the whole, and the elain remains, which is colorless, insipid, without smell, and difficult to congeal. Or, by squeezing tallow between the folds of porous paper, the elain is separated, and soaks into the paper, while the stearine remains

behind. The paper being then soaked in water, and pressed, gives up the elain.

FOR SULPHURING WOOL, SILKS, STRAW BONNETS, &c.

Put into a chafing dish some lighted charcoal; put this chafing dish into a small close room without a chimney, or into a closet or large box; then pound an ounce or two of brimstone, and strew it on the hot coals. Hang up the article you would have bleached, make the door fast, and let them hang three hours, or all night, if you have time.—This is what is called dry bleaching woollens; all fine colored woollens should be sulphured in this way previous to their being dyed. Straw bonnets are likewise bleached in the same manner.

Dr Forbes, of Chichester, is said to be preparing a translation of the improved edition of Laennec's Treatise on diseases of the Chest, with notes and commentaries by the translator.

Carey & Lea, Philadelphia, have recently published a Treatise on the derangement of the liver, internal organs and nervous system, by James Johnson, M. D.

From the Monthly Magazine.

LINES

Written after visiting a Scene in Switzerland.

Thou glorious scene! my wond'ring eye
Hath gazed on thee at last,
And by the proud reality
Found Fancy's dreams surpass'd.

'Twas like the vision which of old
To the saint seer was given,
When the sky open'd, and behold!
A throne was set in heaven.

For there the everlasting Alps
To the deep azure soar'd,
And the sun on their snowy scalps
A flood of glory pour'd.

A present Deity, that sun
Above them seem'd to blaze,
Too strong and bright to gaze upon,
Too glorious not to gaze.

Below, the bright lake far and wide
Spread like a crystal sea,
Whose deep calm waters seem to glide,
Eternity, to thee.

Long, long, thou glorious scene, shalt thou
Within my memory dwell,
More vivid and heartgladd'ning now
Than when I mark'd thee well.

More vivid and heartgladd'ning too,
Than the wild dreams I nurs'd
Of thee and thine, ere on my view,
Thy world of wonders burst.

For Fancy's picture was a gleam,
Weak, faint, and shadowy,
And brief and passing as a dream
The gaze I bent on thee.

But now thou art a thing enshrin'd
Within my inmost heart;
A part and portion of my mind,
Which cannot thence depart.

Deep woes may whelm—long years may
roll
Their course o'er me in vain,
But fix'd forever in my soul
Thy image shall remain.

Dr. Comstock, of Hartford, Conn., has found out a chemical process by which to render leather, cloth, and divers other things, impervious to water. We saw a pair of prunella shoes which did not differ at all in appearance from ordinary shoes of this kind, that had been soaked in water for days without the least dampness on the inside. To what purposes, or how extensively, the Doctor means to apply his discovery, is what he himself has perhaps not yet determined, but it has every appearance of being a most important one.—He said to us positively that it is a very different thing, so far as he could find out, from any of the plans for such purposes that have ever before been used or recommended.—*Hartford paper.*

CRUELTY TO THE BRUTE CREATION.

He that can look with pleasure on the agonies of an unoffending and unresisting animal, will soon learn to view the sufferings of a fellowcreature with indifference; and in time

he will acquire the power of viewing them with triumph, if this fellow-creature should become the victim of his resentment, be it just or unjust. But the minds of children are open to impressions of every sort; and, indeed, wonderful is the facility with which a judicious instructor may habituate them to tender emotions. I have, therefore, always considered mercy to beings of an inferior species as a virtue which children are very capable of learning, but which is most difficult to be taught if the heart has been once familiarized to spectacles of distress, and has been permitted either to behold the pangs of any living creature with cold insensibility, or to inflict them with wanton barbarity. *Dr. Parr.*

TO THE LOVERS OF GOOD BEER.

Put two quarts of molasses into a keg of ten gallons cool water. Boil two ounces allspice, two ounces ginger, two ounces hops, and half a pint of Indian meal, in two or three quarts of water, about an hour—strain it into the keg while hot, add one pint of yeast—shake it well together—stop the keg nearly air tight, and let it stand about twenty-four hours, when it will be fit for use.

An Irish footman having carried a basket of game from his master to a friend, waited a considerable time for the customary fee, but finding no present appear, scratched his head and said, "Sir, if my master should say, 'Paddy, what did the gentleman give you?'—what would your honor have me tell him!"

BOSTON, TUESDAY, DEC. 26, 1826.

GYMNASIUM.

The second quarter at the Boston Gymnasium will commence on the 1st of January. The treasurer, Wm. B. FOWLE, will attend at the Gymnasium every afternoon from 4 to 5

o'clock, to receive applications for admission.

MR. EDITOR,

Is the term *pulse* to be considered as singular, or as plural? An answer will oblige your humble servant,
MEDICUS.

Pulse, in medical language, seems to mean the character of the circulation of the blood, as indicating the existing state and action of the heart and bloodvessels,—arteries and veins. The rate of motion is but one circumstance in the character of the circulation. This motion may indeed be quick or slow, but the pulse is also hard or soft, full or flaccid, regular or irregular, &c. When the speaker or writer wishes to express merely the number of contractions and dilatations of the circulating system, which produce and regulate the current of the blood, in a given time, as a minute for example, we think a better word would be *pulsations*, or *beats*. In the report of medical cases, it is common to write, "skin hot, tongue furred, pulse 80, feeble and irregular, &c." The pulse is here said to beat 80 times in a minute, the time being understood. But as the number 80 shows the rate of motion only, the reporter expresses some other properties of the *pulse*, that the reader may form a correct idea of the state and action of those organs which set and keep the blood in motion. Ninety-nine persons in a hundred use pulse in the singular number only, and this use is sufficiently general, and we apprehend sufficiently reputable, to constitute the highest authority for the practice. Pulses is strange and unplea-

sant,—it seems to imply that there are several sorts of circulation going on at the same time, in different parts of the same system.

THE SMALLPOX.

This disease prevails on Staten Island and the neighboring shore of New Jersey; it has recently been, or now is, in Taunton and Charlestown, Ms. These "signs of the times" afford a very intelligible intimation to those who prefer foresight and arrangement to disaster and defeat; the conduct of many people, however, induces one to suspect, at least, that to one part of the community the lesson must be more *impressive, must be felt*, before the truth in this case will be admitted. Yet in this instance it is more prudent to act on the credible testimony of others, than obstinately to insist on the evidence of our own senses and sensations. If any are yet indifferent to the smallpox, it is because they have not had this *sensible* acquaintance with it. It happened to the writer, more than twenty years ago, to have charge of a stout man who had taken the smallpox the *natural way*. He was swelled up to a round, bloated, dark mass of apparent putridity. His eyes were closed, and almost every feature of the face was obliterated; he was on his back, still and motionless, hardly resembling an organized or a living body. He was a favorite sergeant in a corps of artillery. In the state just described two of the company officers wished to see him; the medical attendant went with them,—after the first glance of the eye these two officers, brave men

too, fell instantly back in horror and dismay, and it was not in the physician's power to rally them to a more deliberate inspection of the patient. They never could be brought again to look on this spectacle. The noble sergeant survived; he was received as from the grave,—with surprise and sincere congratulation by all his old comrades, among whom none greeted him with more wonder and cordiality than the two appalled lieutenants.

But as the lukewarm are not now permitted to witness a scene of this kind, we would invite all who wish to form such an idea of the smallpox as the eye alone, one single sense, can give, to look at a painting of this mutilating scourge, as it is seen in the face, in the possession of Dr. Fisher, now in Boston, recently from Paris.

DICTIONARY.

Angina, the cynanche, or quinsy.

Larynx, a cartilaginous cavity, situated behind the tongue, lined with an exquisitely sensible membrane. The superior opening of the larynx is called the *glottis*. It is the upper portion of the trachea, or windpipe.

Œsophagus, the membranous and muscular tube which conveys the food from the mouth to the stomach. The *gullet*.

Tympanites, a species of dropsy, producing a swelling of the abdomen from air.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

CHARLES WHITE,

Corner of Marlboro' and Winter Streets,
HAS received by the late arrivals from Europe, a full assortment of DRUGS, MEDICINES, and SURGEONS' INSTRUMENTS—among the Instruments are Syringes for removing poison from the stomach—Amputating, Trepanning, Oph-

tthalmia, Dentist, Pocket, Dissecting, and Midwifery Instruments—Cranatomy, Tooth, Dressing and Dissecting Forceps—Seton Needles, Trocars, Bistories, Lancets, Pins for Hair lips, &c.

✓ Strict personal attendance paid to Physicians' Prescriptions, and to the delivery of Family Medicines.

Medicine delivered at any hour in the night.

SAILOR'S PHYSICIAN.

RICHARDSON & LORD have been appointed by the proprietors agents for the sale of "SAILOR'S PHYSICIAN," containing Medical Advice for Seamen and other persons at Sea, on the Treatment of Diseases, and on the preservation of Health in sickly climates. By Usher Parsons, M. D., formerly of the United States Navy—2d edition."

AMERICAN MODERN PRACTICE,
BY JAMES THACHER, M.D. A.A.S.

JUST published and for sale by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington-street, corner of Franklin-street.

District of Massachusetts, to wit.

District Clerk's Office.

BE it remembered, that on the 16th day of September, A. D. 1826, in the fiftyfirst year of the United States of America, Cottons and Barnard, of the said District, have deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof they claim as proprietors, in the words following, to wit:

"American Modern Practice; or, a simple method of Prevention and Cure of Diseases, according to the latest improvements and discoveries, comprising a practical system adapted to the use of medical practitioners of the United States. To which is added an Appendix, containing an account of many domestic remedies recently introduced into practice, and some improved formulæ applicable to the diseases of our climate. A new edition improved. By James Thacher, M.D. A.A.S. Author of the American New Dispensatory, and Observations on Hydrophobia. The young disease, which must subdue at length, Grows with our growth, and strengthens with our strength."

JUST published, and for sale by MUNROE & FRANCIS, and RICHARD-

SON & LORD, the *Philadelphia Journal of the Medical and Physicul Sciences*, edited by N. Chapman, M. D. Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic and Clinical Practice in the University of Pennsylvania; W. P. Dewees, M. D. Adjunct Professor of Midwifery in the University of Pennsylvania; and John D. Godman, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Medical College of N. York. No. 25, for November, 1826.

PUBLICATION OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL RECORDER,

No. 24, South Eighth Street, Philadelphia.

SOME time ago a premium for the best Essay on the Suppression of Hemorrhage was offered; the premium has been awarded to H. G. Jameson, M. D., Surgeon to the Baltimore Hospital, and the essay will be published in the next No. 33, of the Recorder, now in the press; also, communications from the following gentlemen, namely;—Dr. Hewson's interesting case of Umbilical Hernia, Dr. Cross, of Lexington, Ky. on the Circulation of the Blood; Dr. Mitchener on Fever; Papers furnished by the Medical Society of Virginia; Mr. Gardette on Diseases of the Teeth; &c. &c., besides some interesting Reviews of recent medical publications.

The departments of Analysis of American and Foreign Medical Journals, Anlecta and Medical Intelligence, will be supplied, with all the new and important medical information of the day.

With a view to crowd more matter into the Journal, it is intended to enlarge each number, commencing with the one now in the press.

RICHARDSON & LORD, Agents,
Boston.

PURIFIED PYROLIGNEOUS ACID.

THE use of this article is a perfect substitute for the common process of smoking Meat; and the flavor of Hams, &c. prepared with it, is fully equal, if not superior, to that given in smoking. One quart is sufficient for 150 or 200 pounds of meat. It is used by simply bathing the hams with the acid three or four times; or by mixing it with the pickle which is put to the pork. The above Acid is constantly kept for sale in barrels, kegs, and bottles, at 70, Court-street, by JOSEPH KIDDER.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1827.

NO. 33.

ON TEMPERATURE AND HARDINESS, WITH REMARKS ON DIET. BY THE LATE DR. BEDDOES.

There are scarcely any topics, which popular writers on regimen labor so little as those of the present essay. Yet there are none better entitled to their care. A hundred pages of plain and appropriate instruction how to secure the advantages of temperature, and how to escape from its mischiefs, would be of more service than a hundred volumes of such discourses as we commonly meet with on the comparative merits of fish, flesh and fowl. There are, in reality, very few persons who are not the worse for their own want of information on this head, or for that of others. Erroneous practices at one time give rise to the most tedious, and at another, to the most severe illnesses.

What subject of contemplation is more melancholy than the uncertainty of life during its first stage? What oftener intrudes on the purest and most placid domestic enjoyments, than the alarming recollection of this uncertainty?

It seems, however, clear that the knowledge and application of a few simple principles would prevent the greatest part of this alarm and distress. Of two equal lots of infants, I do not entertain the smallest doubt but the mortality would be less by half, in that where these principles should be steadily followed. I will venture to say the same thing of sickness, at this and at every subsequent period; and not of sickness only, but of that comfortless state, which wants a name, but will be well understood by the tenderer part of society, on recollecting their feelings in sharp weather, their greater weariness on waking than on going to sleep, their oppression after meals, and their sufferings on many other occasions, where the rest of animated nature find solace.

During those epidemic pestilences of the dark ages, which were so destructive as to obtain notice in general history, the people and the medical faculty agreed to bewail the malignancy of the atmosphere. The atmosphere was accused in cases, where he who ran

might almost have seen, that the calamity was disseminated by the grossest kind of contagion alone. But in acquitting the medium, by which we are surrounded, of producing one class of evils, its really injurious influence, if not absolutely overlooked by professional men, has never been sufficiently explained to the mass of those, on whom it is exerted. It is my intention, at present, to do what my own observations, assisted by those of others, will enable me towards supplying this great deficiency.—I shall separately consider different ages, constitutions and circumstances: and thus I hope to furnish most of my readers with data for determining the mode of conduct best suited to themselves, and to those dependent on their discretion. I only expect that they, on their part, will bring with them common prudence to the consideration of common matters, and not suffer themselves to imagine that any tricks of medical legerdemain can suddenly repair the ruin, brought on the human machine by long negligence or gross error.

Infancy.—If there were safety in the multitude of books, parents would have little to apprehend for their progeny. The literature of Europe abounds with productions on the diseases and the manage-

ment of children. We have many such in our own language. A reputable living author has collected from his predecessors, with a degree of judgment. He has added some things from genuine observation. It is to be regretted that he should have unintentionally given his sanction to the arts of common imposition by the needless employment of language, connected with exploded hypotheses.* It is still more to be regretted, that by entering into the treatment of diseases, he should have thrown a temptation in the way of mothers and nurses to intermeddle with that part of medical practice which is precisely, on many occasions, the most difficult, on account of the obscurity of symptoms in children. It would have been better to omit such dangerous matter, and in place of a few perplexed, indiscriminating sen-

* For instance—"Every species of this eruption is produced by the same cause as the thrush, but can scarcely be termed a complaint, being a kindly exertion of nature to throw off some **ACRIMONY**."—Again, "otherwise the rash striking in, the **ACRIMONY** will fall on the first passages. Everybody, who has taken the least pains to examine the grounds of medical opinion, knows that there is not the smallest evidence of any kind in favor of the existence of *acrimony*, or of its migration to and fro in the body. And such shallow nonsense from a regular physician to common readers gains credit for quacks, whose advertisements usually run in the same strain. In this consists the mischievousness of this particular nonsense. Though indeed it is hardly possible for nonsense and falsehood to be innocent, when it is to be reduced to practice on infants by the ignorant."

tences, to have devoted the space that would thus have been gained, to a copious investigation of the effects of heat and cold. For there is nothing so essential in the whole compass of infantile regimen.

I hope I shall not be thought too trivial if I recommend that care be taken to provide a fit habitation for the expected little stranger. The numerous opportunities I have had of becoming acquainted with the causes of suffering among the poor, first impressed me with a sense of the importance of this precaution. I have seen severe catarrh, the most violent inflammations of the eye, and other complaints, produced by a breach in the window, or by a fissure in the wall, opposite the spot where the infant was usually held. In some instances, indeed, the parents, inattentive as the poor usually are, have made the discovery themselves. The same thing has occurred in opulent families. The shrinking of the sashframe, of a board in the floor, or of some other woodwork, has admitted an unperceived, but strong current of cold air, by which infants have been seriously injured.

But it is not only necessary to guard against such mishaps; the fireplace should be so contrived, that even in cold

weather a steady temperature of about sixty degrees may be kept up for the first four or five weeks after birth. The air of the nursery should never be suffered to be below fifty degrees; and I would advise every parent to ascertain this by a thermometer, constantly kept in the room, at the risk of being thought ridiculously minute. No hothouse is suffered to be without an instrument of this kind. New-born babes are as tender as any exotic plant, and who will say they are not entitled to as scrupulous care? The directions with which Count Rumford has favored the world, will assist in fitting up an apartment so as to be properly warm. And I suppose, few fathers, once convinced of the propriety of a steady, mild temperature, will hesitate to dedicate their most suitable apartment to the health of their offspring. Small nurseries cause many complaints, and many bad constitutions. Leaving the door open for a short time, fills the room with frosty air in winter: and a fire, somewhat too brisk, produces a heat that will aggravate some disorders, and greatly enervate a habit constantly immersed in it.

The membrane lining the nostrils and airpipes is, at first, so susceptible, that the slightest impression will often pro-

duee a very sensible effect. Brisk motion, for example, against the air of a room sufficiently warm, will produce both coughing and sneezing, but more certainly the latter, and it had better be avoided. The frequent renewal of this irritation tends to keep up the excessive susceptibility of the membrane. A habit is established, which in some few instances lays the foundation of asthma at a very tender age. I have seen this disease extremely violent in young children, and have traced it with a considerable degree of probability to causes that kept up an original diseased disposition of the surfaces swept by the air in respiration. Where no striking evil is occasioned at the moment, future complaints of the same parts may be rendered more frequent and severe; and, perhaps, a propensity to catarrh, which is undoubtedly one of the greatest plagues a person can be troubled with in this climate, may thus be generated. There are a number of nurses, I know, who will laugh you in the face, if they hear you express any anxiety about an infant's taking cold. But these ladies do not appear to have been favored with any peculiar illumination as to the latent causes or remote consequences of indisposition; and I have known contemners of

petty cautions, whose success in rearing children could not be said to add particular weight to their sentiments.

Some infants are born with a defect in the membrane of the nostrils and airpipes, or of the *mucous* membrane, as I shall hereafter call it. They sneeze frequently; they are heard to rattle in breathing, or to wheeze; mucus appears in too great abundance at their nostrils; they are liable to appear more chilly than is usual, even at this age. At the time they breathe hard and have a superfluity of mucus, their hands and feet will be covered with a cold, clammy perspiration. These infants demand the most particular attention as to the temperature in which they are kept. This attention, and perseverance in the following simple measures, will generally bring the mucous membrane to a healthy condition.

When the extremities are cold and clammy, they should be rubbed before a moderate fire with the hand, or gently with a soft fleshbrush, till they grow drier and warm. No pains should be spared. The rubbing at first may require to be repeated many times in a day. Merely holding the hands and feet to the fire will not answer. To any one who has paid the least regard to the nature of animal motions,

I need not explain the difference between the effect of external heat and of that excitement of the parts by which they are made to warm themselves by their own action.

In the clammy, perspiring state I have described, a little chicken broth, or gravy diluted with water, or diluted milk in which spice has been soaked, should be given at the temperature of about a hundred and five degrees; that is, sensibly above bloodheat; and this in whatever way it is nursed, if the child will take it.

A small vessel for a warm bath should be part of the furniture of every nursery. Warm bathing will be particularly useful in cases of weakness of the mucous membrane. At times, during the chilly state, the infant may be placed in water at the temperature of ninetysix degrees, to which salt has been added. This will be particularly proper if there should be pain of the bowels at the same time; and, in general, weakness of digestion will accompany the other weakness. The time of continuance in the warm water should be a quarter of an hour or longer; if there be signs of ease and comfort, for a longer time.—The warm bath will be a resource during such sufferings as arise from the thrush and from teething, as well as from indigestion.

When the skin feels dry and hot, children, whether weakly or robust, should be carried into a room without fire, till the skin returns to its natural state. This, when there is no feverish disease, will soon happen. Neither coughing nor sneezing, as I have frequently experienced, will be provoked by this treatment, even where there is the greatest disposition to it at other times.

Nurses, in general, have an exceedingly vicious habit of holding infants at particular times near the fire, without regarding whether they are previously hot or cold. In their feverish complaints, there is the same want of care to accommodate the temperature to the state of the skin. Though perhaps it is not altogether want of care, but sometimes the effect of those mistaken medical opinions which, in former ages, induced physicians to stove their patients, ill of the smallpox and pleurisy, in hot, close rooms.

It is, by no means, so impracticable as many would fain make us believe, to eradicate these and other prejudices from the minds of female attendants on infants. But from the experience of the world, it is clear that it can very seldom be done by threats or by commands. Indeed there is much less disparity in the

power of apprehension of different ranks, than the superior members of society are willing to flatter themselves. If men and maids have fair play, they will often reason as logically as masters and mistresses. And having once been made to feel that we can only arrive at an acquaintance with the nature of things by experiment and observation, they will with perfect readiness defer to the opinion of those whom they believe to have had superior opportunities for observing. Orders and facts are so very different in themselves, that they can never produce the same operation on any human mind. But obedience will always be more cheerful and steady after a reasonable explanation. And this, in the case of infants, can always be given without derogation from authority, or any other inconvenience. The interest which these helpless and tender beings inspire, produces a sense of equality, which is every day expressed in the conversation of the nursery, and from which no danger arises to family subordination. The same interest will ensure conformity and vigilance, when the means of averting evil are clearly pointed out.

A leveller, seeing two crows flying side by side, exclaimed, "Ah, this is just as it should be ; I hate to see one crow over another."

ON CHRONIC GASTRITIS.

BY M. ANDRAL, JR.

The effects of inflammation on the primary tissues of the body, should never be lost sight of in the treatment of disease. If the various changes induced in the consistence and color, in the physical and anatomical characters of these structures, were merely a matter of curiosity, we should not feel so anxious to recur again to the subject, and to entreat our readers' attention to it. That primary inflammation softens all textures, is a truth so fully established by observation and experiment, that it may be regarded as a fundamental principle in pathology ; and whatever increases or keeps up inflammation in any inflamed structures, must necessarily be injurious. If, for instance, the mucous membrane lining the stomach or bowels, be inflamed, would it not be preposterous practice to administer any medicine likely to produce vomiting, or otherwise to stimulate these organs to increased actions ? yet this has been done constantly, and cases have been published, even very lately, by some practitioners, and noticed by certain reviewers, in which such irritants had been applied immediately to the very seat of the disease, and in which neither the reporters nor the reviewers seemed for a moment to suppose that the practice was injurious, and the principles on which it was founded were altogether erroneous. A case in point just occurs to us, which we recollect to have read in a late number of one of our periodicals.—A physician was called to see a lady who complained of intense pain in the abdomen, particularly in the epigastric region. The pain was increased by pressure, the skin was hot and parched, and a sense of burning heat was felt in the stomach. To relieve these symptoms, a dose of tincture of opium was administered, opium being said, in the books, to possess the power of deadening pain. We wish that those

who hold such an opinion would take the trouble to try a simple experiment. If any of them happen to scald his hand or his foot, and while yet the first blush of irritation reddens the part, let him but apply some tincture of opium to it, and he will soon have an idea of the effect which such a medicament would be likely to produce if applied directly to the mucous membrane of the stomach, when irritated or inflamed. Well, the laudanum was given—and in a few minutes was rejected by vomiting. The dose was repeated—the same consequence followed—and the reporter, not warned by the effect of his experiment, resolved still to follow his books, and bravely adhere to his theory of the sedative effects of opium, even when dissolved in ardent spirit. It was given twice, therefore, concludes our pathologist; it was given a third time—and then he merely adds, it was a third time rejected. He adheres, however, to his duty as an historian—he merely states the fact, but makes no comment on the practice. After a delay of four hours, the patient was bled, and forthwith a purgative was administered, which produced no effect, as may be supposed; a drastic purge was then given, to which, if we recollect right, some drops of croton oil were added.

After all this, as may be supposed, the patient died. On examination, the peritoneum was found inflamed; the part of it covering the stomach was coated by a layer of coagulable lymph, and the coats of this viscus were perforated in one or two points. We do not just now recollect that any notice was taken of the condition of the mucous membrane. A sapient reviewer reports the case, details the morbid appearances fully, and then exclaims, "here was inflammation enough to kill a lion;" but it never occurred to him to inquire how much of this inflammation was owing to the soothing influence of the opiates, repeated three times,

even to puking, to the delay of the bleeding for four hours, or to the administration of a drastic purge in a case of acute gastritis. When it is said that acute inflammation softens all textures, and that it constantly produces this state of softening in the mucous membrane of the stomach, does it follow, that whenever we find a softening of all the coats of this viscus, that this change is produced by inflammation? Erosion of the coats of the stomach very frequently occurs. It has been called by some, spontaneous erosion. Hunter ascribed this to the action of the gastric juice *after death*. More modern pathologists consider it as the result of a vital morbid process, and the symptoms which characterize it have been minutely recounted by several persons, particularly by Dr. Pitchast,* of Carlsrue. It is usually observed, he says, amongst children who are badly nursed; it gives rise to paleness of the face, with occasional flushing, loss of appetite, thirst, dryness of the lips, and chapped tongue. All the ingesta are vomited, diarrhoea supervenes; the stools are slimy and fetid. The countenance is expressive of pain, it becomes shriveled and contracted, and its lineaments marked as they are in old age. In such cases, Pitchast gives, he says with good effect, the mineral acids, in some orange flower water. He restricts the diet to barley water and diluents. The practice seems to us to be founded on some chemical notions of the probable effect of the acids in indurating the softened texture of the organ; if so, the principle is erroneous, at least its application is so in the present instance, for the remedy is applied to the effect of disease, it is directed to a mere consequence, and not to the pathological condition which had produced it. It appears to us, that the vomiting, heat, thirst,

* See Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, Oct. 1826. p. 451.

and other symptoms, are all indicative of irritation; and that the acid is more likely to increase than to allay it. Mr. Hunter's opinion as to the cause of this softening, was founded on his having observed it in the stomach of a criminal who had been hung, and who was *reported* to have been healthy up to the time of his execution.

This appears to be rather a hasty inference; a general principle should never be deduced from a single case. Its universality is overthrown by the fact, that this softening occurs during life, and results from some morbid action going on in the part, which may be inferred from the thirst, heat, vomiting, &c. Consequently, Hunter's conclusion, that it occurs *after death*, is by no means tenable. But is this change of structure always the result of inflammation? We shall recur to this subject at a future time; it is of too much importance, in a practical point of view, to be discussed incidentally.

When irritation or inflammation has existed for some time in the mucous membrane of the stomach, it may end by resolution, as happens in other structures. Patients who have suffered from this affection, continue dyspeptic a considerable time; and should it happen that death occurs from some other cause, the mucous membrane will be found as pale, if not paler, than natural; and instead of being softened, it is at least as firm as during the perfectly healthy condition of the organ. Such cases are very likely to deceive persons not conversant with post mortem examinations. They may be led to conclude that no inflammation had existed, and, therefore, that the diagnosis was erroneous. But according to Andral, and we have seen it verified in several cases, there is a pathological condition which proves the nature of the case, and demonstrates, that though the inflammation of the mucous membrane itself had ended in resolution, it still left one of

its consequences behind; for the cellular membrane, immediately under the mucous coat, and which is termed the submucous cellular tissue, will be found thickened and indurated, and when cut through, the section shows the coats of the tube, whether it be the stomach or intestine, to be considerably thicker than natural. This is a constant effect of chronic dysentery, as well as of chronic gastritis. In the latter case, this pathological condition of the stomach is accompanied by all that train of dyspeptic symptoms marked by heartburns, gnawing pains, sense of heat, and loss of appetite, which are empirically treated by acids, tonics, blue pill and bitter mixture, as ordered by the regulars, whether purists or generals; and by hippo pill, half grain doses of rhubarb, hot water for dinner drink, and mustard seed by the irregulars of various denominations. In the days of John Brown, the practice of medicine was reduced to a systematic administration of drams; in this "enlightened age," as the critics call it, medicine seems to consist of a ceaseless administration of irritants. How long will these things continue unabated? They will continue till a knowledge of the pathological conditions, induced by disease, are better understood—till *post mortem* examinations are properly conducted, and more constantly resorted to,—till our hospital system is altered, so as to afford to our students adequate clinical instruction,—they will continue so long as men are put into these hospitals, merely because they have had a university education, and without any reference to their professional acquirements, the majority of whom are mere "imbeciles" in practice, and totally incapable of communicating instruction to others. When such nuisances are abated, we may expect to see men like Andral, Louis, and a host of others in France and Germany, investigating disease in all its varied forms, prosecuting

their researches with that ardor which is the true characteristic of genius, and seeking to fit themselves by a long and systematic course of study, and we may say of discipline, for the arduous duties which their profession imposes on them.—*Lancet.*

PREVALENCE OF REMITTENT FEVER.

A Correspondent, who has lately visited the fenny districts of Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire, informs us, that fever of a remittent type prevailed throughout these parts during the last two months, to such an extent, that scarcely a house but one or more of its inmates have been the subject of fever.

Notwithstanding that much has been effected, more especially by the patriotic efforts of the Duke of Bedford, towards draining the fens, still there is a large tract of country which is overflowed in the winter season, and consequently in which stagnant waters abound. The inhabitants of these districts are therefore subject to the endemic affections peculiar to marshy countries, and it usually happens that an autumnal fever, more or less, prevails, which commences in October and mostly assumes the remittent type.

But, according to our Correspondent's statement, the disease on the present occasion made its appearance in the month of August, when a long, hot, and dry summer, which had almost desolated the face of the country, was succeeded by slight rains. In some cases, he observes, the disease commenced as a quotidian intermittent, and after a short time the intermissions becoming less and less perceptible, the fever gradually assumed the remittent form, in which the cold stage was very slight, and the hot protracted and severe, the remissions, or exacerbations, being in many instances very inconsiderable. With some patients, the fever at first assumed a remittent type, and ended as an intermittent.

There was no one particular organic affection attendant on, or characteristic of, this fever, but in its progress different organs in different individuals became affected. In some, the functions of the brain were disturbed—in others, not at all; with many, the liver and mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels became the seat of the disease, hence the functions of these parts were deranged, and their secretions rendered of an unhealthy character.

With respect to the treatment of the diseases, this was, in a great measure, regulated by the concomitant symptoms. In some cases it was necessary to deplete, in order to relieve the inflammation of some particular organ; but the fever, it appears, was in general attended with so much prostration of strength, that the patients could but ill bear the loss of blood. The treatment found to be most successful consisted in the exhibition of the sulphate of quinine, in doses of two or three grains every three or four hours.

It would seem that the late hot weather operated in giving to the customary febrile affections of this part of the country, a more than usually severe character, which fact is in strict accordance with the opinion expressed by one of the best writers on the subject of marsh diseases—Montfalcon. He observes, that marshy emanations are far more powerful in hot climates than in cold, and that the more intense the heat of the atmosphere, the more rapid in their march are the diseases engendered by marsh effluvia.—*Ib.*

The College of Physicians of London have deputed a gentleman who has been practising at Brussels for many years, to go into Friesland to inquire into the character of the epidemic which has proved of late so destructive in Gröningen and its neighborhood. By letters lately received from Amsterdam, it appears that about

150 persons die weekly in the little province of Friesland, 637 have died from September 7, to October 5, and within four months, there have been 1445 deaths. The number of persons at present sick, is estimated at about 10,000. The medical men at present most active, are Professors Bahker and Wolthers, but as yet, no official reports have been published by them.

It will be recollectcd by many, that when the dikes gave way in the preceding winter, a great part of Friesland was laid under water. With the aid of the windmills the greatest part of this water was pumped out, so that the soil began to be visible. The hot summer succeeding, the decomposition of the vegetable materials went on so rapidly that the fluid water was not only stagnant, but loaded with putrescent matter, which by a rapid evaporation has been carried into the atmosphere, and has no doubt caused the fatal epidemic by which that part of the country has been visited.—*Ib.*

CHANGES PRODUCED ON THE SKIN, BY FEVER, ERYSIPelas, &c.

By the late Dr. C. H. Parry.

The effect of the depressing passions, as fear, grief, on the color of the hair, is generally believed to be permanent; the editor of this journal had under his care a patient, who was nearly wrecked in a vessel on the coast of Spain; his hair in a short time became partially grey; he was young; its color was again restored, after the lapse of some months.

"With the desquamation of the cuticle, the hair of the head, and on various parts of the skin, is apt wholly or in part to fall off. As, however, the skin is renewed, a fresh crop of hair also arises, and is usually such, as to strength, thickness, and color, as, in patients advanced in years, to give an appearance of a

much earlier age. Thus when, after an erysipelatous fever, which I suffered at fiftyfive, the skin of my face, and various other parts, repeatedly came off, and with it almost all my hair, which was extremely thin and grey; after a few months, a new growth covered my head, thicker, and with a much greater proportion of dark hair than before. Mr. G. at a more advanced age, had for several months a fever, in which I saw, first the membranes, then the ligamentous parts, and afterwards the glands, affected with inflammation. He recovered, and the hair of his head, which had been dark, but had become much more grey than mine, was renewed in increased abundance, and without a single white hair.

"From partial inflammations an opposite local effect is often produced on the hairs scattered on the skin. In the spring of 1811, I had for some weeks violent gout in my right wrist, but after some months gradually disappeared, leaving the skin in the usual state.

"In the winter of 1813 and 1814, after an attack of gout in my left wrist, a similar new growth of hair occurred on the outside of the wrist and lower part of the fore arm.

"Among the effects produced by fever on the nails and hair, I must not omit to mention that change to crookedness so often observable in the former from hectic fever; or that disposition to the growth of a beard on the upper lip, which occurs in young females in the advanced stages of this malady. For the latter information I am primarily indebted to the late Mr. Barry, of the Hotwells, Bristol, whose experience in hectic cases was very extensive, and who, so far as I know, was the first person who observed the fact, and considered it as characteristic of the malady."—*Med. Recorder.*

There is a project on foot in Germany to unite the Weser and the Rhine by a canal.

CASE OF EXTENSIVE DISEASE OF THE SCALP.

Robert G., by trade a tinman, of rather short stature and fair complexion, 38 years of age, was admitted into the Hospital on the 11th of April, with a very severe laceration of the scalp. The greater portion of the scalp covering the left side of the frontal bone was torn off in a triangular fold, and at the time of the accident hung pendent over the brow, but was soon afterwards replaced. By the contraction of the integuments, there was a large surface exposed, nearly as large as the palm of the hand, and the whole presented a most foul and ulcerated condition. On inquiring into the particulars of the case, the man stated that the accident happened from the kick of a horse on his road to town from Hertfordshire, that he turned back the part turned down as well as he could, and bound his head up with his handkerchief, and that in this pitiable condition he came on to town. He remained another day before he came to the Hospital, not knowing that he could be taken in, except on the regular admission day. Notwithstanding so severe an accident, there was but little constitutional derangement; the tongue was but slightly furred, and the pulse rather slower than natural. Mr. Lawrence, under whose care the man was, ordered bread and water poultices to be applied to the part, and a dose of calomel and jalap to be given him, and house medicine when necessary. It required some time before the foul surface could be made to assume a more healthy action, and when this was accomplished, a considerable portion of the frontal bone was observed to be bare. Some matter had formed beneath the integuments about the left temple, which was let out. Slight bleedings occasionally occurred, but they were easily suppressed; about five weeks since, however, the posterior branch of the temporal artery

burst out, and the House Surgeon was called, who took it up and secured it. From this time the case went on favorably; healthy granulations every where presenting themselves, except on the exposed bone. At length, however, minute specks were here and there observed sprouting out of the surface of the bone, and these in a day or two were found to be red and fleshy granules, which gradually increasing, eventually covered the whole portion of bone, in extent about an inch and a half, and in breadth from three quarters to an inch. It is rather a singular circumstance, that this man's constitution has not been in the least disordered by the local disease, and that the pulse has been particularly slow. The surface has not yet completely cicatrized over, but only a short time longer is necessary, and then he will leave the Hospital. *L. Lancet.*

Winter evenings should be occupied in reading by those who have not business to employ them. Nineteenths of mankind spend more time in positive idleness, neither in business, recreation, nor needful repose, than is necessary, if employed in judicious reading, to make them very intelligent members of society. But how many are there who do not even read a newspaper. They have not time, and can't afford the expense! yet they can idle away two or three hours in a day, and spend the price of half a dozen newspapers, or a share in a public library, for rum to pour down their necks.

THE FLEXIMETER.

An instrument under this name has been invented by a French surgeon, for the purpose of ascertaining, which it is said to do with great accuracy, the existence of any pleuritic or other effusion in the chest or abdomen. It consists of a plate of ivory, like the lid of a snuff box, which is fixed on the part to be examined in such a way, as to render

the sound produced on it by percussion very distinct. The presence of so small a quantity as two glasses of liquid has been ascertained by the pleximeter. It likewise enables the operator to discover if the liver or the spleen is enlarged, or if the peritoneum contains any air.

EXPERIMENT WITH HYDROCYANIC ACID.

M. Dupuy lately communicated to the Academy of Medicine at Paris, the following experiments which he had tried:—He introduced into the mouth of a horse that had been destined to be killed, a morsel of sponge, which had imbibed a mixture composed of seven drops of pure hydrocyanic acid, and twentyfour of water. In a few seconds the posterior extremities of the animal began to falter, and he fell; the respiration became noisy and accelerated, the nostrils were dilated, the mouth open, the tongue, as well as the eye and eyelids, affected with convulsive movements. The fore extremities were in a state of flexion: when nux vomica has been given, they are always extended. The animal was in a comatose state, and appeared to have lost all sensation or movement. Palpitations of the heart were frequent.

M. Dupuy made this experiment to ascertain if the hydrocyanic acid did not produce the same effects as are to be seen in brokenwinded horses.

On dissection, we find in the latter that the lungs are emphysematous, and during life the nostrils much dilated in horses under the influence of this medicine.

The state above described continued for twentyfive minutes, and appeared likely to cause the death of the animal. A drachm of the sub-carbonate of ammonia dissolved in water was injected into the jugular vein. In a few seconds the animal raised itself, and went to the stable! and in an hour afterwards no symptoms remained, except a slight in-

crease of the respiration and pulsation of the heart, and twitchings of the subcutaneous muscles.

LONGEVITY OF ANIMALS.

A writer in the New York Times gives the following as the greatest number of years to which any of the named animals have attained, by which it will be seen that the "half reasoning elephant" attains the greatest age. The Cricket 10 years; Spider, sometimes, but seldom, more than 1 year; Scorpion, 1; River Crayfish, 20; Carp, 100 to 150; Tortoise, 100; Crocodile, 100; Hen, 10; Peacock, 24; Lark, 18; Sparrowhawk, 40; Goose, 50; Swan and Eagle, 100; Parrot, 110; Rabbit, 9; Goat, 10; Sheep, 10; Hog, 20; Dog 23 to 28; Cat, 18; Squirrel, 7; Wolf and Bear 20; Fox 15; Lion 60; Cow 20; Bull 30; Ox 19; Deer 20; Horse 25 to 30; Ass 25 to 30; Camel 50 to 60; Elephant 150 to 200. —*Boston Statesman.*

HYDROPHOBIA.

The following case by Dr. Oppert, of Berlin, is interesting, inasmuch as it adds to the testimony already advanced in favor of exciting suppuration in parts bitten by a rabid animal, and maintaining it for some weeks, at least, after the injury.—*Lancet.*

Madame N., aged 29, of a weakly constitution, was on the 16th Dec. 1825, bitten on the ring finger of the right hand by a dog. Immediately afterwards, the dog was carried to the veterinary school, Berlin, and died on the 18th December, with all the symptoms of hydrophobia. As the animal had shown no signs of this disease previous to being taken to the school, the medical attendant was not sent for till the 18th.

On examining the wound, there was found on the posterior surface of the first phalanx of the ring finger of the right hand, a bluish spot of the size and form of a shilling. There was no excoriation. In the

middle, however, of this contusion, if it may be so called, there was a small point, similar to what might have been expected from the impression left by a pointed tooth. It was considered proper to take all the steps necessary to prevent an attack of hydrophobia. The spot was first of all scarified with a lancet, well rubbed with caustic, and afterwards covered over with pulvis cantharidis, and unguentum cantharidum.

After this had been done, the tongue of the patient was examined, and there was found, to the astonishment of the medical attendant, close to the frenum and the openings of the ducts of the sublingual glands, two small vesicles about the size of a poppy or millet seed, filled with a kind of lymph, similar, in short, to what Marochetti has described. They were contained in the small duplicature of the membrane which covers the mouth of the duct, under the tongue. A knitting pin was now made red hot, and both these tumors were completely destroyed by the ferrum candens, a work of no small difficulty, as the patient was very restless during the operation. The nerva and radix genista tinctoriae, in the form of decoction, were given internally. The latter both as a gargle and internally, to the extent of several cupfuls daily. On the 19th, the cauterized part on the finger was covered with a scab; the inflammation extended all over the first phalanx of the fourth finger, produced much pain, extending as far up as the axilla. Want of sleep, weariness, loss of appetite, came on. The patient had flatulence and indigestion, after taking the decoction of the genista, but still continued to use it till the end of the fourth week. On the fourth or fifth day, suppuration came on after the scab had fallen off. The wound being much inflamed, and very painful, only unguent. basil. was applied as a dressing, unless it showed a disposition to

heal, when the ung. canthar. was again applied. In the 8th week the wound was closed, and in the 9th week, when this paper was written, no symptoms of hydrophobia had shown themselves.

From the New Monthly Magazine.

LIFE AND DEATH.

O FEAR not thou to die !
But rather fear to live ; for Life
Has thousand snares thy feet to try
 By peril, pain, and strife.
 Brief is the work of Death ;
But Life! the spirit shrinks to see
How full ere Heaven recalls the breath,
 The cup of woe may be.

O fear not thou to die !
No more to suffer or to sin ;
No snares without thy faith to try,
 No traitor heart within ;
 But fear, oh! rather fear
The gay, the light, the changeful scene
The flattering smiles that greet thee here,
 From Heaven thy heart that wean.

Fear lest in evil hour
Thy pure and holy hope o'ercome
By clouds that in the horizon lower,
 Thy spirit feel that gloom
 Which over earth and heaven
The covering throws of fell despair,
And deem itself the unsforgiven,
 Predestined child of care.

O fear not then to die !
To die, and be that blessed one,
Who, in the bright and beauteous sky,
 May feel his conflict done ;
 Who feels that never more
The tear of grief or shame shall come,
For thousand wanderings from that Power,
 Who lov'd, and call'd him home.

A plan is in agitation in New York for erecting a Central Public School, for the education of tutors and monitors. Very few schoolmasters are properly qualified for their vocation. This plan of instructing them is undoubtedly a good one. It was recommended by Governor Clinton.

The number of sick in the single state of Grotinzen, Holland, is said to be 10,000.

Two persons sick with the ~~scro~~ pox have been sent from ~~Cura~~ town to Rainsford Island.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, JAN. 2, 1827.

THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY.

At this annual revolution, on this day which connects the past with the coming year, this season of joy and gratulation, no one more sincerely than the editor of this little paper, wishes that the twelvemonth on which we are entering may be a year of health and prosperity to his friends and supporters. And if his own life and health shall be continued, he will not content himself with cherishing and expressing good wishes merely, but will add his best efforts to render the year *healthful* that it may be *happy*. For what is a man worth without appetite, digestion, and sleep? With these, if his motives and pursuits are right, he is in the way to be as happy as nature ever intended he shold be in this first stage of his existence. If he has a mind, he can use it with facility and satisfaction, with conscious strength and alacrity. If he has talents, he can successfully exert them for his own preservation and advancement, and the benefit of society. He can comprehend his duties and perform them. If a mountain is seen to rise in the distance, to oppose his career, it sinks, before firm approach, to an easy acclivity. If on the contrary he is dyspeptic, all the lurid creations of a timid and restless imagination, stand before him in so many sad realities. If you tell him his apprehensions are but so many fictions, he will pity your ignorance, and cling the more firmly to his morbid convictions. Argument is lost on him, for his vision reflects none but

inverted images, and reason itself is impaired or dethroned.

Would you avoid this condition, my friends, the most intolerable of all on this side of perdition? Cultivate, then, the means of physical and moral wellbeing. For these are so nearly related, and are affected by our principles and habits in a manner so similar, that while moral sensibility remains, we have no right to expect the one without the other. And what human being could desire animal life merely, if it could exist without intellect and affection? Can the body be well in its feelings and functions, while the heart is sick? On the sudden and unexpected arrival of bad news, why is that food loathed, with oppression of stomach, which the instant before was taken with a keen relish? It is because, in a welldisciplined state, our moral and corporeal constitutions are inseparably connected. Can sleep close his eyes whose soul is overwhelmed with shame and remorse? No, to preserve the body in health, the conscience must be seared or tranquil.

The first condition of being what we all wish, and should be, is Temperance. Our material nature is so constituted, that with temperance we may innocently enjoy many animal gratifications. The food we take to preserve life, is a source of pleasure, and unlike many other pleasures, though often repeated, it is not diminished by repetition. All voluntary motions in healthy animals, particularly in young animals, is productive of pleasurable sensation; and in mature and advanced life, he longest and best retains the suscep-

ibility of this gratification, whose exercise of the locomotive organs is most free and sufficient. The mental and moral faculties,—the sympathetic and benevolent affections, all have their appropriate objects of interest, and are in their due proportion and exercise, fruitful sources of pleasure and enjoyment. We are, in kindness, furnished with capacities for all this extended and diversified range of felicities, and on terms and conditions with which we can comply. It will not be denied, at least, that we have the power to ask for that assistance, which if properly sought, will be granted, and when granted, will be sufficient to lead us all to these enjoyments.

The next condition required in order to secure the advantages described, is *Industry*. Because you are rich, do you imagine that you can be idle with impunity? Because you are strong today, do you suppose yourselves above the influence of those causes which confer health, or independent of those agencies which undermine it? Will you vainly look for the desired fruit, while you waste the time and means which should be devoted to its cultivation? All our endowments, whether muscular or nervous, whether mental or sympathetic, if the possessor would be happy, must be trained and directed in harmony and concert, to the accomplishment of the high purposes for which they were bestowed.

CERTAIN CURE FOR THE CRAMP.

An effectual preventive for the cramp in the calves of the legs, which is a most grievous pain, is to stretch out the heel of the leg as far

as possible, at the same time drawing up the toes towards the body. This will frequently stop a fit of the cramp after it has commenced; and a person will after a few times be able, in general, to prevent the fit coming on, though it should approach between sleeping and waking. Persons subject to this should have a board at the bottom of the bed, against which the foot should be pressed when the pain commences.—*Cayuga Republican*.

This is one of the best newspaper recipes we have seen for some time. It deserves notice as well for the ingenuity of the discoverer, as for his benevolence in making it known. Beside, we can say of it what we cannot of many gratuitous prescriptions,—it is safe, if it does no good it will do no harm; and this, in many cases, is the most that can be said of the best remedies.

GYMNAStic EXERCISES.

Mr. William Fuller has just commenced a course of tuition in Gymnastic Exercises in New York. Having, during his last visit to Europe, constantly attended the Military Schools at Woolwich, Sandhurst, and Chelsea, and other establishments of Professors Vaelker, Clias, &c. he has acquired a thorough knowledge of the more improved systems now in use. The capacious room in the Shakespeare Hotel, Nassau street, has been fitted up in the completest manner with musts, bars, poles, ropes, ladders, and other Gymnastic instruments. On the beneficial effects of these healthy exercises it is unnecessary to enlarge. The Gymnasium will be supplied with foils, broad-swords, gloves, dumbbells, weights, &c. &c. Terms, &c. may be learnt by inquiring at the Shakespeare.

We have received a communication from Dr. P. CARPENTER, of Ashford, Connecticut,

DICTIONARY.

Axilla, the armpit.

Epigastrum, or epigastric region, the part immediately above or over the stomach.

Frænum, a bridle; a cutaneous or membranous fold, connecting one part of the body with another, as the frænum or bridle, of the tongue.

Gastritis, inflammation of the stomach.

Nux vomica, a narcotic poison brought from the East Indies.

Pathological, often used for diseased, as in page 342.

Peritoneum, a strong simple membrane, by which all the viscera or organs of the abdomen are surrounded.

Phalanx, the small bones of the fingers and toes, which are distinguished into the first, second and third phalanges.

Post mortem, after death; used adjectively for the examination or dissection of a dead body, at some suitable period after the termination of life.

Sublingual glands, the glands under the tongue which secrete saliva, or spittle.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ATHENEUM:

OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.
FOR JANUARY 1, 1827,

JUST published by John Cotton, 184 Washington-St. corner of Franklin-St.
CONTENTS. Greece; Ali Pasha—The Bachelor's Beat, No. I.—The Penitent—An Exile's Song—Travels in the Subterranean Regions of the Globe, No. II.—May-day in the Village. A Sketch—January and May: or, Age and Youth—The Moth with the Golden Wings—Paul the Projector—Original Letter of Bonaparte—Rare Instance of Self-Devotion—Christian Mariner's Song.

WELLS & LILLY

HAVE just published GOOD'S BOOK OF NATURE, in 2 vols. 8vo.

JUST published, and for sale by MUNROE & FRANCIS, and RICHARDSON & LORD, the *Philadelphia Journal of the Medical and Physicul Sciences*, edited by N. Chapman, M. D. Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic and Clinical Practice in the University of Pennsylvania; W. P. Dewees, M. D. Adjunct Professor of Midwifery in the University of Pennsylvania; and John D. Godman, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Medical College of N. York. No. 25, for November, 1826.

MEDICINES, SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, &c.

AFULL assortment of DRUGS, MEDICINES, CHEMICALS, SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, and other articles in the line, for sale on the most accommodating terms, by BARTLETT & BREWER, at the sign of the *Good Samaritan*, No. 92, Washington street, late 13, Cornhill.

PURIFIED PYROLIGNEOUS ACID.

THE use of this article is a perfect substitute for the common process of smoking Meat; and the flavor of Hams, &c. prepared with it, is fully equal, if not superior, to that given in smoking. One quart is sufficient for 150 or 200 pounds of meat. It is used by simply bathing the hams with the acid three or four times; or by mixing it with the pickle which is put to the pork. The above Acid is constantly kept for sale in barrels, kegs, and bottles, at 70, Court-street, by JOSEPH KIDDER.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

THE MEDICAL LECTURES in *Brown University*, R. I. will be commenced on the fourth Thursday in February, 1827, and be continued about three months. Tickets to all the Lectures—\$40.

CHARLES WHITE,

Corner of Marlboro' and Winter Streets,
HAS received by the late arrivals from Europe, a full assortment of DRUGS, MEDICINES, and SURGEONS' INSTRUMENTS—among the Instruments are Syringes for removing poison from the stomach—Amputating, Trepanning, Ophthalmia, Dentist, Pocket, Dissecting, and Midwifery Instruments—Cranatomy, Tooth, Dressing and Dissecting Forceps—Seton Needles, Trocars, Bistories, Lancets, Pins for Hair lips, &c.

Strict personal attendance paid to Physicians' Prescriptions, and to the delivery of Family Medicines.

Medicine delivered at any hour in the night.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1827.

NO. 34.

As a number of persons have mistaken the intention of this paper, it has been thought proper to say that its chief object is to promote Health, by pointing out the more common and prevalent causes of disease, and the means of avoiding or of counteracting them. Health may also be promoted by invigorating and confirming the feeble and valetudinary, and thus rendering them superior to the influence of atmospheric changes and other sources of physical derangement, by which, though harmless to the robust, the tender and susceptible are always in danger of falling into sickness. It is intended to be intelligible to all classes of readers, that it may be made conducive to the improvement and preservation of all.

The Medical Intelligencer in its present size, with its present editor, views and objects, takes its origin from the No. published on the 3d of October last. It is now adapted and intended for the public generally, as well as for the medical profession. The present volume began May 23, 1826.

ON TEMPERATURE AND HARDINESS,
WITH REMARKS ON DIET.

Continued from page 342.

I have known an incident as simple as the following, put

an entire stop to a system of mismanagement, from which immediate suffering had arisen, and which threatened serious hurt to the constitution. In the middle of the night, during a smart accession of feverishness, one of the parents finds the nurse sitting up, the child on her lap, flushed and with a burning skin, and in this condition exposed to the full blaze of a brisk fire:

P. How has she been?

N. O! very restless. She has tossed and tumbled about ever since bedtime, without one comfortable wink of sleep.

P. Bless me, how hot!

N. She has been like a firecoal these two hours.

P. I wish there were some cooling medicine to take off this extreme heat.

N. Yes, indeed, I wish there was. The poor thing is excessively feverish. How she burns!

P. But since she burns in this manner, must not being so near the fire in this hot room be extremely bad for her? If she wants *cooling* medicine, would not *cooling* air do her

good as well? And is not this hot air making her burn more?

N. But might not she catch cold? For it always sets her to sneeze, when there is the least breath of air.

P. Did you not hear Jane Saunders, this very week, say how much ease it gave her to be washed with cold water in the rage of the fever; and how eagerly she cried out, **MORE, MORE WATER?** And there are countries where persons in the smallpox are always washed with water; and they are now, here and every where else, kept in cool air. So I shall take her into the next room, and do you put out the fire. I do not believe it is possible for her to sneeze, or to take cold there with this heat on her; and if the hands grow cold sooner than the face and body, we will put on her gloves.

The child grew comfortably cool in a quarter of an hour, and slept with perfect composure during the remainder of the night. Nor was there after the smallest reluctance on the part of the nurse to take her out of the cradle, or out of bed, even in the midst of a sound sleep, horrid as this piece of cruelty would have seemed before, when her skin felt particularly hot and dry. And she cordially entered into the plan of rubbing the hands

and feet, when cold,—as also, of giving food, either below or above blood heat, according to the state of the skin at the time.

Children, who have this defect of the mucous membrane, or general constitutional debility, are particularly subject to Indigestion—that common, but by no means necessary plague of our earliest years. I shall, therefore, step aside for a few moments from the subject of temperature, in order to point out a method of obviating one principal cause of that distress, the heartpiercing expression of which is made by Virgil,* with so much truth of feeling, to strike the ears of Æneas, when he arrives on the verge of the precincts of Pluto. The cause I mean is the perversity of the women usually about children. For it will be found still more easy to convince them out of their prejudices in the case of diet, than in that of temperature. For here the facts can be brought more directly home to their senses. I have heard a variety of mothers complain that sugar, bread, biscuit and cakes disagreed in the most evident manner, and yet, that it was impossible by any injunctions, to prevent the one from being made a part of the food, and the other from being given to stop the hiccup, or to produce

* *Vagitus infantum in limine primo.*

a sensation that should suspend crying for the moment. After a tedious contest, these mothers have declared themselves obliged to abandon the point altogether. Now it is well known, that perpetually recurring complaints of the stomach and bowels arise from mere *sourness*, and the parties, by whose mistaken kindness or by whose delicacy of ear they are occasioned, are perfectly informed so far. It remains only to carry their knowledge a little further. Respecting the juice of the sugarcane, it is a very striking particular, that in the West Indies the purest sort will scarce keep a quarter of an hour in the receiver, without turning sour. This can only be told.

---The acescent nature of bread, of sugar, and the various compositions into which flour and sugar enter, may be shown. For this purpose, it is only necessary that a solution of sugar in water should be made into vinegar. In like manner, bread and sweet cake, steeped in water should be placed in a heat nearly equal to that of the human body, and the servant be put to taste the infusion when it has become acid. By an address suited to the object in view, there will surely be small difficulty in giving these simple experiments all the effect that can be desired.

I shall very contentedly allow the childless wit to laugh at me for the whimsical idea of tutoring nursemaids in chemistry. I have a balm at hand for any wound the shafts of ridicule may inflict. Considerate parents will avail themselves of so practicable an expedient; and many little sufferers will escape the consequences of an improper regimen. And these are, probably, far more serious even in respect to the future than the present. For it clearly results from a contemplation of the manner, in which human feelings and ideas gain their connection, that frequent discomposure of the stomach in the morning of life may be instrumental in overcasting its meridian and its close with a cloud of misery such as neither skill nor fortune can disperse.

Among some of the common people, who deem themselves adepts in the art of managing children, it is a prejudice that those, fed by hand, and probably others, will never thrive without more or less solid food; and if the mistake be not corrected, it will induce them to persevere in administering acescent substances to the infinite torment of many nurselings. But the example of young animals, when distinctly pointed out, has proved sufficient to remove this ap-

prehension. And the understanding being once satisfied, there is little hazard, in persons of common intelligence and humanity, lest the will should continue intractable. Need I add, that such only as are possessed of these qualities in a reasonable degree, should be entrusted with the care of beings so extremely liable to receive irreparable injury from injudicious treatment? Many writers on education have laid it to the heart of mothers, not to commit to hirelings the task of *nurse*. Such writers have not, in general, been members of the medical profession. By these, the recommendation will be found a great deal too indiscriminate. And professional men have the best opportunity of knowing the consequences in different instances, and the fairest pretensions to decide, when an exception ought to take place. This interesting office should, undoubtedly, be always undertaken by the parent herself, when it is not likely to prejudice either party. But I am afraid that the reasons for *occasionally* declining it have become continually more and more cogent from a pretty uniform increase of debility among females. And I suspect them for some generations back, to have been somewhat more cogent than has usually been conceived.

The milk, it has been alleged, disagrees with the child's stomach.—No doubt it frequently does. But could not the reverse have often been as truly alleged? Does the stomach never disagree with the milk? That is to say, would not the disparaged milk afford perfectly wholesome aliment, where the digestive organs should perform their functions healthily? In such a case, undoubtedly the child should be weaned *for its own sake*, if not for that of its mother. And a plan of diet should be pursued under the direction of a medical practitioner, not less conversant in chemistry than in the vulgar routine of our art. The former is a qualification, which nothing can replace. The want of it sometimes, perhaps, levels the practitioner, most busy about ladies in the straw and the inhabitants of the nursery, with the most prejudiced of those women, whom we see busying themselves with equal confidence in their own talents in the same department. I shall only add, that preparations from animal substances and cow's milk, with the occasional addition of alkali, saturated with carbonic acid, and by no means always of magnesia or chalk, will form the basis of a regimen, proper under such circumstances. However inexpedient it may be to stim-

ulate the young stomach in its robust state with the extract of flesh, this may be almost the only admissible aliment in a given condition of the digestive organs. Woe be to the attendants on childhood, when they will not move in correspondence with the alterations of nature !

But, in truth, these and other cases, where all the assistance required could be easily rendered, are far from being submitted to the judgment of any medical practitioner, whether competent or the reverse. The subjects of them perish from an imagined incorrigibility of their constitution, or else after struggling out of a first into a second *slough of disease*, they are lost in a third, without the solace of a single smooth or flowery interest in the whole journey of life.

These calamities would occur more rarely but for the two following causes. Parents, in the first place, remain in a state of torpid inattention to temperature, and in some measure to diet, as if the operation of temperature and diet was inconsiderable, because it is not always striking to the inobservant!—Nor is it remembered what the chances are against the persons ordinarily employed, managing in the best manner possible, in these essential respects.—It

will not, I trust, be said that the very prolongation of existence does not at first demand the best possible management; whatever difficulty there be in extending the views to the sequel. I do not, as I have said, think lightly of the duty incumbent on one parent to give suck, where nothing forbids. But it seems to me a duty, infinitely more incumbent on both, to make themselves acquainted with the incessant and mighty influence of the vicissitudes of the surrounding medium on the human frame, that they may guard their tender progeny against the blights, which some of these vicissitudes are so apt to bring on it, when unsheltered.

On giving this whole subject due consideration, few things will, perhaps, appear less comprehensible than the practice of *nursing out of the house*, or confiding solely in the un instructed or the undiscerning. I can scarce, indeed, conceive that this practice has ever been followed by any parent, whose eye had once been caught by such requisites as are most essential to happiness in every stage of mortal existence without distinction. If we abstract from certain uncommon instances of adoption, what shall we repute the ordinary condition of fosterparents to be? Is not the latter evidently such that if Quintil-

ian properly advises to *commit a beginner to the most skilful to initiate him into learning*, the precept ought to be a thousand times more sacredly observed in behalf of those who are to be initiated into life?

As to the fosterparents, it would be wasting words to describe their deficiency in means, information, expedients, vigilance and penetration. With scarce the ability to perform the easiest offices, relative to human beings, they are charged with the most difficult. Whatever may be the number of illstarred infants that may have passed through their hands, it is impossible, without more than a miracle, that their qualifications should have received any material increase. It is the misfortune of mankind that experience itself can instruct none but those who are prepared for its precepts by art, or by some very unusual bounty of nature. On the latter chance, nobody in his senses will reckon, and the former sort of preparation is always wanting to the persons in question. What is the common history of poor families? Why, that a large proportion of the members perish in the rearing, or become diseased? —To what are we to ascribe this? Surely, not to penury alone. Ignorance claims its share.—Nor must those faithful attendants on ignorance be

excluded—heedlessness on the present occasion, and rashness on the next. Does the history of opulent families, when heads divest themselves of the superintendence of the members during their most precarious years, differ very widely from that of the poor? I doubt it extremely. Were an inquisition taken, their bill of mortality and their bill of health would, I am persuaded, agree in a similar result. And whenever a business, capable of being conducted, in a great degree, according to ascertained principles, shall cease to be carried on at random, fathers and mothers, who have it in their power to provide for the proper accommodation of children, will less frequently have to lament either their loss, or the irreparable personal misfortunes of their infancy.

MORTALITY FIFTY YEARS AGO AND NOW
IN EUROPE.

M. Chateauneuf, after investigating the subject with much care, considers the following facts as sufficiently established:—Fifty years ago one half the children born in Europe died in the first ten years; now only thirty eight in one hundred. Fifty years ago seventy four persons in one hundred died from birth to fifty years; now only sixty six in one hundred. Fifty years ago only eighteen persons in one hundred arrived at the age of sixty; now twenty three in one hundred. Fifty years ago there was one death annually in thirty two individuals, now there is only one death in forty individuals.

We insert the preface of the following work that our portion of the public may form an opinion of its character, utility and adaptation to all classes of readers. With the proprietor's permission, for it is a copyright book, we shall gladly enrich our pages with some extracts from the highly valuable information it contains.

A Practical Treatise on Poisons and Asphyxies, adapted to general Use, &c. By M. P. ORFILA.

Preface.—The celebrated author of the volume entitled “*Secours a donner aux Personnes Empoisonnees et Asphyxiees*,” has therein presented to the public, and adapted to general use, the practical parts of his great work on Poisons; those parts which should be within the reach of all, whose standing in society, or whose profession may render them liable to be called on for aid and advice, in cases of accident and crime.

Most of the cases of death by drowning, hanging, and poison, which are daily recorded in the public journals, proceed to their fatal termination only through the ignorance of those who, having the opportunity and the disposition to render aid, are destitute of the requisite means and knowledge. The frequency of these events sufficiently attests the necessity of a work of this kind, freed from technical language, and

proposing remedies and means, which are procured and executed with the greatest facility.

The plan, which the author proposed to himself, and which he has completed with the greatest accuracy, is set forth in the Introduction, pp. 1—7; it was, to describe the effects produced by the several poisons, and by various accidents; the means of knowing the presence of these poisons, and the nature of these accidents; and the remedies necessary for preventing and counteracting the injuries and diseases, to which they may give rise.

The merits of the work might be permitted to rest on the reputation of its celebrated author. The following extract from a “Report made by MM. PERCY, PINEL, and VAUQUELIN, to the Society of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, 1818,” will serve to show the estimation in which it is held by the most distinguished physicians and chemists in France.

“In designating the properties of the different poisons, M. Orfila has selected those which are most important, and most easily ascertained; and of which one or two are frequently sufficient for the discovery of the poison.”

“The simple and accurate manner, in which M. Orfila has treated this interesting subject, renders the work still more useful.”

"This work of M. Orfila must become generally esteemed, as it is freed from scientific terms, and is reduced to precepts the most simple, yet sufficient to effect the object proposed."

"It is to be wished that Government would take the necessary measures to distribute it among all classes of society; and especially that it may be in the hands of *medical practitioners, the clergy, and municipal officers*, to whom, being often called on to administer succor, the knowledge of the improvements which science has made of late years in the treatment of persons poisoned, or in a state of suspended animation, has become indispensable."

Some considerations relating to Medical Jurisprudence; particular directions for conducting the Analysis of the poisons, and the opening of the corpse; and the manner in which the Report of the investigating physician is to be drawn up, have been added in an Appendix. They were translated from "A Medico-legal Manual of Poisons," published in Paris, 1824, under the direction of Professor Chaussier.

It is thought that this addition has rendered the volume more useful to practitioners, and to all who may be called on to investigate and judge in

cases of sudden and violent death.

The Appendix also contains, Treatment of the Effects of Lightning, Prevention and Treatment of the Effects of drinking cold Water, and Means of rendering Assistance to Persons drowning.

The characters and effects of some poisonous plants, native in this country and not noticed by the author, have been inserted, and some notes and references have been attached to the text.

The translator has used the third edition, printed, in Paris 1825; he has endeavored to render his version correct and intelligible, and hopes that he has adapted to the taste of the community a work, which was urgently demanded by its necessities.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

OVERSHOES.

MR. EDITOR,—No sooner does winter commence, than many persons are apt to persuade themselves that they must immediately guard their feet by overshoes. Some put them on because they have a singular dread of wetting their feet; others to save themselves the trouble or expense of cleaning their boots; others because they imagine that they look well; and others because they are fashionable. But every one who wears them pretends, whatever may be his true reason, he invariably pretends that he wears them to preserve his health, and to keep his feet dry. But whatever may be one's real or pretended rea-

sons for putting on overshoes, they are the most injurious things he can wear. They do not preserve one's health. Go to experience, the most conclusive of all tests, and you will find that nine out of ten of those who wear overshoes will affirm that they have never experienced the least benefit from them; and many of these, on the contrary, will tell you that they have suffered much more from colds and from sickness since they have worn them than they ever did before.

Is it not reasonable, I shall be asked, that a man who always keeps his feet dry will be less liable to take cold than one who suffers them to be wet? And are not one's feet kept dry by means of overshoes? To the first of these questions I answer, yes. If a man *always* keeps his feet dry, this will be the case. But to the other question, "will overshoes accomplish it?" I answer, no—not always, nor effectually. A man who is accustomed to wear overshoes, thereby makes his feet very tender. The effect of making one's feet thus tender, is twofold.

First. If one who wears overshoes accidentally leaves them off, even on a very pleasant and dry day, he will unavoidably catch a cold, and that of the worst and most unpleasant kind. And this is frequently, nay, it is almost invariably done in dry weather, even though it be winter. Much sooner will one take cold should he leave them off in wet weather. And this may be done either through carelessness or necessity. One may be exceedingly hurried and forget them; or he may have mislaid them, and rather than be at the trouble of looking for them, will choose to go without them. In fact, a thousand things might happen to prevent his wearing them. What is the consequence? Why, he takes a cold, and straightway all the females of his kindred and household are up in arms. *How did you get*

your cold? cries one, and administers thereon an emetic. *How did you get your cold?* echoes another, and administers a cathartic. *How did you get your cold?* exclaims a third, with a mess of molasses in one hand, and half a dozen pills in the other. O ye young men and old! if ye wish to escape this most unmerciful treatment, never wear overshoes. And those who have heretofore been accustomed to wear them, as the season is now at hand in which they are commonly put on, I warn you never to wear them again.

Secondly. One who is accustomed to wear overshoes makes his feet so tender, that the least wetting of them at any time, even in summer, will prove fatal to his health. Even one who wears them constantly, and is careful never to leave them off, if by chance he wet, or even damps, his feet a very little, is sure to be sick; and in a very wet day he runs a risk of wetting his feet even through his overshoes and boots. And that degree of dampness in the feet which would not produce the slightest unpleasant sensation, afterwards, in a man who never wears them, even though he should be of a slender constitution, would stretch on their beds many robust, stout, and healthy men, who are accustomed to wear them.

But if, on the contrary, a man suffers his feet to be wet, without taking the precaution to guard them, he can remain with them wet a longer time though without suffering the least inconvenience from it.

PHYSIOLOGUS.

This is good expostulation and advice; it is reason and truth confirmed by experience. Some winters ago, we also tried the experiment of wearing overshoes, and while the trial was going on, we had more falls, suffered more from tender feet,

and took cold more frequently than in any other equal period of time.

For the reasons assigned by Physiologus, the overshoes will sometimes be left behind, and the feet having been rendered more tender by their occasional or general use, will suffer as above stated, in consequence of being exposed without them. The foot and ankle are less flexible with than without this superfluity, one cannot so well recover from a slip, nor walk so long without fatigue, when encumbered with this worse than useless appendage, as when they are left behind, as they always should be. No man or woman, in tolerable health, who has had a moderate share of skill and fortitude in disciplining his feet, and preserving himself, ever needs any further security against cold feet and its consequences, than what may be derived from a pair of good leather shoes or boots, and a pair of worsted, or better, woollen, hose. When my feet complain of cold, I put them for a short time into cold water, first breaking the ice with the heel if there be any, after which they soon learn to disregard trifles. This should be done in the morning, and if gradually induced, may be safely borne by any one who has, or intends to have, stamina enough to look our climate in the face.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

INFANTILE ERYSIPELAS.

By P. CARPENTER, M.D.

P. Y. C. aged 4 or 5 months, had great swelling of the hands and feet, the skin was red and smooth, and about the joints semitransparent.

The heat of the surface was burning and pungent, the pulse very quick though not hard; the countenance was pale, the eyes heavy, attended with frequent yawning, &c.

Having become satisfied that the fluids in this complaint are contaminated by a disordered liver, stomach and bowels, I directed an active cathartic, and ordered the extremities to be kept wet with the following mixture; dissolve one drachm of muriate of ammonia and the same quantity of camphor, in a pint of alcohol.

While this application was made to the lower limbs, the vital organs were guarded by frequent doses of saffron tea, and small doses of camphorated spirit taken internally. After the operation of the first cathartic, finding that the symptoms were not much diminished, I made a free use of the nitrous spirit of ether to excite the absorbents, and to relieve the system from offending fluids by an increased action from the kidneys. This treatment internal and external, abated the symptoms with astonishing rapidity, and soon effected a cure, gentle laxatives only being administered, after the disease had declined.

Ashford, Ct. Dec. 1826.

ON THE OPERATIONS OF MEDICINAL BODIES, AND ON THE CLASSIFICATIONS FOUNDED ON THEM.

Medicinal substances are those bodies, which, by due administration, are capable of producing certain changes in the condition of the living system, whereby its morbid actions may be entirely removed, or advantageously controlled.

In adopting this definition we intentionally exclude those alimentary substances which are more immediately subservient to the support of life, and to the repair of that diurnal waste, which the exercise of its functions so inevitably occasions.

It has been generally supposed, that substances whose application does not produce any sensible action on the healthy system, cannot possess medicinal energy; and, on the contrary, that those bodies which occasion an apparent effect in the health, must necessarily prove active in the cure or palliation of disease. Under certain limitations we may perhaps venture to assent to this general proposition; but it cannot be too forcibly or too frequently impressed on the mind of the medical practitioner, that *Medicines are frequently but relative agents*, producing their effects in reference only to the state of the living frame; we must therefore concur with Sir Gilbert Blane in stating, that the virtues of Medicines cannot be fairly essayed, nor beneficially ascertained, by trying their effects on sound subjects, because that particular morbid condition does not exist which they may be exclusively calculated to remove;* thus in certain states of debility, Tonics may excite the system when languid, by their sympathetic influence on the *prima viae*, while in a robust condition of the body, the effects of the same agents may be wholly inappreciable.

The MODUS OPERANDI of remedies, or the general principle on which they effect salutary changes in the morbid states of the body, is involved in considerable obscurity, and has given rise to much ingenious speculation and scientific controversy. It would seem that the immediate impression of a remedy may depend on mechanical, chemical, or vital agencies; and that the sanative impulse thus occasioned may either be Absolute or Relative;—Primary or Secondary; Local or General; Direct or Sympathetic; Permanent or Transient; thus certain purgatives will occasion intestinal excretions in every condition of the body, and may therefore be justly considered

as being *absolute agents*; while diuretics, since they generally require for their success, a certain state of the living system, may with equal truth be denominated *relative* in their operation. That the obvious effect of a remedy may either depend on its Primary, or Secondary and incidental operation, will at once be apparent by inspecting the diagram which exhibits the classification of diuretic medicines; the same scheme will also show that remedies may be local or general in their effects, and may excite an action in distant organs, either by entering the circulating mass, and being thus brought into contact with their textures; by occasioning an impulse conveyed through the nervous system, or by exciting a local impression on the stomach and *prima viae*, and thus arousing their energies through the mysterious medium of sympathetic* communication. That certain bodies are capable of evading the assimilating functions, and of entering unchanged, into the circulating current, either through the branches of the thoracic duct, or of the *vena portarum*, is a fact which admits of chemical demonstration; many of the alkaline salts are thus conveyed to the kidneys, and being excreted from the blood by its vessels, are to be easily detected in the urine by

* The term *sympathy* has often been objected to, as being too figurative; it is certainly a metaphor taken from an affection of the mind, but, as Sir Gilbert Blane very justly remarks, the import of words ought either to be assumed conventionally according to a definition, or to be adhered to in the sense affixed to it by established usage; “by animal sympathy,” says he, “is not meant the intelligible principle of Stahl’s hypothesis, but that mutual influence of distant parts, so subtle and rapid as in some instances to be compared to thought or lightning; while in other instances it is an action more tardy and habitual.” *Medical Logic. Edit. 2d. p. 123.* In the present work, I wish the reader to understand the term *sympathy*, wherever it may occur, in conformity with the above definition.

appropriate reagents; I have made many experiments on this subject, and am prepared to state some results which may perhaps explain the occasional value of such bodies as medicines. Some essential oils, particular *bitter principles*,* and certain coloring matter,† seem also capable of passing the barriers of digestion, and of circulating to the remote parts of the body. Mercury, and several of the other metals, would likewise appear, under certain circumstances, to possess a similar privilege, and the former to be able moreover to facilitate the absorption of other bodies with which it may be associated, as I shall hereafter more fully exemplify.

In some instances, the medicinal body undergoes a partial decomposition by the digestive organs in its passage, by which some of its constituents escape into the circulation, while the others are completely digested, and converted into chyle; this occurs with saline compounds into which vegetable acids enter as constituents. There is likewise reason to suppose, that in particular conditions of the digestive functions, a remedy may be at once rendered inert by its entire decomposition.‡

* Colchicum Squill, and many other vegetable diuretics, are of this nature.

† The Indian Fig, (*Cactus Opuntia*), when eaten, renders the urine of a bloody color.

Rhubarb has likewise an effect on the color of this secretion.

‡ This is probably the reason of many bodies producing but little effect on the inferior animals. The vegetable eaters are certainly less affected by vegetable poisons than those animals who exclusively live on animal substances: it is thus that a rabbit can take a very large dose of opium without any ill effects, while half the same quantity would poison a dog. It is a curious fact, that a sound horse can take a very considerable portion of opium with impunity, but if he be weakened by previous disease, by strong purgatives, or by excessive bleeding, he is speedily destroyed by a much less dose; (See Bracy Clarke's Reformed Pharmacopœia for Horses.) In this latter case,

That an impression made on the stomach by a medicinal agent, should be the means of exciting an action in the distant parts of the machine, will not appear extraordinary when we consider how universal a sympathy and control this central organ exercises over every function of the body; imbued with exquisite and diversified sensibilities,—subjected to the first and coarsest impressions of our various ingestæ,—stretched occasionally to an enormous extent by the unrestricted indulgence of appetite,—disturbed by the passions,—exhausted by volition, and debilitated by intense thinking; in short, assailed by numerous foes from *without*, and harassed by various revolutions from *within*, can we feel surprised that the aberrations of this viscus should give origin to the greater number of maladies with which we are afflicted, or that those medicinal applications should be effective that are directed for their cure, through the medium of its sympathies?

A dose of Ipecacuan, by exciting the stomach, will abate both the force and velocity of the heart in its vital motion, and affect the whole series of bloodvessels, from their origin to their most minute ramifications, as is evinced by the paleness of the skin under its operation, as well as by its efficacy in arresting

does it not appear that the fatal result depends on the fact of the digestive organs having been disabled, by debility, from effecting that decomposition by which under ordinary circumstances, the drug is disarmed of its potency? What important lights might not be obtained by the institution of a series of well-devised experiments on the comparative effects of medicinal bodies on man and other animals; The Physiologist has thus availed himself of the resources of the comparative anatomist, and I feel persuaded, that results equally beneficial to science would follow a similar inquiry in relation to the operations of medicines.

In the course of the present work, I hope to show the truth of this position by some appropriate illustrations.

hemorrhage; so the brain when disordered by vertigo frequently derives instantaneous relief from the administration of a teaspoonful of ether in a glass of water. The stomach, however, is not in every case the medium of sympathy; a substance may excite a powerful impression on a distant part, by the instrumentality of the nerves, without any concurrence of the stomach; thus the *Belladonna*, by coming in contact with the *Tunica Conjunctiva* of the eye, will occasion immediate dilatation of the *Iris*, though no other part of the system is in the slightest degree affected. But there is yet another mode by which remedies may be made to exert a sanative effect on particular organs of the body, through the medium of what Mr. Hunter called *contiguous sympathy*, and whose existence appears to depend on the mere proximity and continuity of parts, without any relation to the distribution of the nerves; thus it is, that relief is afforded to a deep seated inflammation, by scarifying the nearest external surface, while we know from long experience that the thoracic or abdominal viscera, when similarly affected, receive corresponding relief from the same topical use of bleeding, blistering, or fomenting.

VAPOR BATH IN TREATMENT OF FEVER.

To equalize the irregular distribution of blood, which in fever occasions such painful and dangerous symptoms, either from its unusual determination to the head, liver, or to any of those organs of life, on the wellbeing of which so much depends, is an object in the management of diseases of this description, of considerable moment. The irregular application of the vaporbath among savage nations, and under an improved form in our modern practice, proves how numerous and how advantageous are the results from its

salutary action on the skin, and its soothing effects on the nervous system.

Its combined or alternate application in intermittents, in scarlet and typhous fever, under their various stages, will be found an auxiliary of no small utility in the hands of a judicious practitioner—judicious, I say, for the appropriate application of heated vapor, warm bath, or cold affusion, requires discrimination and judgment, in respect to their selection, as suited to the symptoms under which they may be indicated.

Where this happens, in respect to the vaporbath, its powers over febrile action, by promoting the free discharge of perspirable matter from the surface, are of the greatest consequence, even in fevers of the worst character, and particularly in those incident to warm climates, where its effects calm and assuage the most urgent symptoms; this effect also follows from its use in cases of typhus, and under the worse condition of scarlet fever, where the surface of the body and the mucous membrane of the trachia are, at one and the same moment, under its salutary influence.

Under the symptoms of hectic fever, there is but little promise of relief from either the warm or vaporbath, so far as practical experience warrants the observation: and, notwithstanding the once sanguine expectation of Dr. Beddoes on this subject, but little hope should be placed on the effects from either, where this symptomatic disease is confirmed in its dreadful character.

Gibney.

DRUNKARDS.

FROM THE NEW-YORK INQUIRER.

We have frequently referred to the cures performed by Mr. LOISEAU, of New Orleans, in restoring drunkards to society, to home, and to character. We read several authenticated certificates of cures performed, and feeling a deep interest on the

subject, we wrote to a friend at New Orleans for particulars. He informs us that Mr. Loiseau is very fastidious on the subject, and is applying for a patent, which, when obtained, some of the medicine will be sent to this city.—Our correspondent says—

"Loiseau has obtained much credit for some of his cures, though there have been several relapses, which he very frankly acknowledges to proceed from error on his part, in mistaking the strength of various constitutions, some requiring stronger doses and oftener repeated than others; but a patient not radically cured the first time, and returned to his care as such, never fails to depart the second time completely cured, and regarding all kinds of spirituous liquors with unaffected disgust.

"His patients, who are put under his charge, sometimes prove refractory, and, after the first dose, refuse taking any more of his medicine, they find it so nauseous—but in this case he does not scruple to proceed to rigorous measures—he whips them without mercy.* The vomiting is frequent and very severe, yet all his cures have eventuated in producing better spirits, appetite, strength, and in fact all that may be held conducive to form a healthy person.

"I have understood that Mr. Loiseau is not the inventor of this medicine—that he had the secret from a friend, under particular circumstances, and that he has been in possession of it several years past—and it is only about one year since he has made use of it in any manner."

The following is a letter from Mr. Blannerhassett, son of the celebrated person of this name.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 24, 1826.

DEAR SIR,—Your medicine, invented for the cure of persons who are in the habit of dram-drink-

* We presume this has reference only to slaves.

ing, is one of great use to society, as it may render talents, which otherwise would moulder with the bones of their possessors, useful to community.

As to its component parts I know nothing, only that the gum asafoetida is one of them; but I am inclined to think it is not its base—nor can its base be discovered, since we are not allowed to subject the medicine to analysis. The base is by some supposed to be a vegetable—but whether it is of the animal, vegetable or mineral kingdom, we know nothing. I have, you know, taken some doses of this medicine, which I think an innocent one in its action on the system; and can add, I think it one of the most powerful and quickly acting tonics to a stomach injured by irregularities producing dyspepsia, atony, &c.—The first dose vomited me at intervals for two days and a night, and from the straining in the act of heaving, produced an enlargement of the velum pendulum pelati, vulgarly called a falling of the palate. The succeeding dose vomited me gently once or twice.

On the whole, I conceive you are justly worthy of the hearty thanks of the public for your indefatigable exertions to restore nearly lost young men to their relatives and friends, that they may one day shine with becoming splendor among their fellow citizens. That you do not give your medicine through interested or pecuniary motives I can testify, as you would take nothing from me, though, I assure you, Sir, you have rendered me a very essential service, which I will, at any time in my power, endeavor to return.

Your obedient humble servant
and friend,

DOMINIC BLANNERHASSETT,
MR. LOISEAU. Surgeon.

DEFINITION OF A LADY'S ALBUM.

An instrument of torture invented by some cruel fair one to rack the brains of her male acquaintance.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, JAN. 9, 1827.

THE PHILANTHROPIST.

In the last No. of this paper, so commendably devoted to the good work of lessening the excessive use of ardent spirit, there is a "Department of Health," consisting of three articles,—the only original one, and for which no credit is given, was taken fresh from our paper. This we think unjust, and complain of it accordingly. In promoting the cause of Temperance, it is always well to respect also the kindred virtue of Justice. We do not believe however, nor would we imply, that the gentleman who conducts the Philanthropist is capable of intending to do wrong; but there are various sources of mistake and error besides this intention, all of which it is well to guard against, because the sooner our rights and duties are understood and observed, the more *temperate*, satisfactory, and confiding will be our social intercourse and relations. It is not ordinarily an easy thing for an editor to manufacture from his own brain, a new article which pleases himself or his readers, and when he does so, he is a little jealous of the reputation and property of his own'wares, and when others appropriate these productions to their own use, without naming the inventor, he is very apt to think they do what, in a change of circumstances, they would not approve.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Gentlemen who subscribed for this paper in October last, are reminded that if it is not paid for in three

months from the date of subscription, the annual price of it will be \$3,50—instead of \$3,00. Jan. 9.

The most convenient and satisfactory way of reading a paper folded and paged as this is, is first to sew the leaves together, and then to cut them open.

Next week we shall say something of Dr. Fisher's plates of the smallpox, cowpock, &c.

TO PREVENT, OR CURE CORNS ON THE FEET.

Easy shoes; bathing the feet frequently in warm water with a little pearlash dissolved in it. The corn itself will be completely destroyed by rubbing it daily with a solution of caustic potash, till the skin becomes soft and flexible.

Newspaper authority.

We shall occasionally use this term, N. P. A. Newspaper authority, after copying such recipes or prescriptions as are safe and probably true, but which are not known to be all they promise from our own experience.

SMALLPOX.

A young man labouring under this loathsome disease, was removed from this city to Rainsford Island on Tuesday last. We understand the patient is a resident of Gardiner, Me. who arrived here from Newyork, on Friday last. While in the city he was kept so secluded, that no persons, unless those of the family in which he boarded, were exposed; and these, it is believed, have all been vaccinated or had the smallpox.

Two or three cases more have appeared at Taunton, and one in Newhaven, within a few days.—*Traveller.*

DICTIONARY.

Iris, the anterior portion of the choroid membrane, or coat of the eye, which is perforated in the middle by the pupil. It is of various colors, hence blue, black eyes, &c.

Præmæ Vie, the first passages; the stomach and intestinal tube are so called.

Thoracic duct, the absorbing vessels which take up the chyle, or liquid nourishment, from the stomach and intestines, unite and form a single trunk of this name. It conveys the nourishment we derive from food into the veins, soon after which it passes through the lungs and thus becomes blood.

Tunica conjunctiva, a thin transparent membrane lining the inner surface of the eyelid, and is reflected over the anterior half of the globe of the eye.

Vena portæ, or *portarum*, the great vein situated at the entrance of the liver, which receives the blood from the abdominal viscera, and carries it into the substance of the liver.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORFILA'S PRACTICAL TREATISE,
ON Poisons, Asphyxies, Burns, and Apparent Death—adapted to general use—translated by J. G. STEVENSON, M. D.—with a Medicolegal, Chemical, and Anatomical Appendix, for the use of Physicians—1 vol. duodecimo.

Extract from a Report of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris.

"This work of M. ORFILA must become universally esteemed, as it is freed from scientific terms, and is reduced to precepts the most simple, yet sufficient to effect the object proposed.

"It is to be wished that Government would take the necessary measures to distribute it among all classes of society; and especially that it may be in the hands of

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$ 1 a square.

Medical Practitioners, the Clergy, and Municipal Officers, to whom a knowledge of its subjects is indispensable."

Published and for sale by HILLIARD, GRAY & CO. Washington Street.

BREWER & BROTHERS.

THE Copartnership heretofore existing under the firm of BARTLETT & BREWER, Druggists, was dissolved on the 31st ult.

SAMUEL N. BREWER, the junior partner, having succeeded to the business, has associated himself with his brothers, NATHANIEL BREWER, M.D.—and WILLIAM A. BREWER, who has been six years in the store. They will continue the business of Druggists and Apothecaries, at the old stand, Sign of the Good Samaritan, No. 92, Wahington Street, under the firm of SAMUEL N. BREWER & BROTHERS, and promising every possible attention to their business, respectfully solicit patronage.

SAMUEL N. BREWER,
NATHANIEL BREWER,
WILLIAM A. BREWER.

Boston, January 1, 1827.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

TH E MEDICAL LECTURES in Brown University, R. I. will be commenced on the fourth Thursday in February, 1827, and be continued about three months. Tickets to all the Lectures—\$40.

CHARLES WHITE,

Corner of Marlboro' and Winter Streets,

HAS received by the late arrivals from Europe, a full assortment of DRUGS, MEDICINES, and SURGEONS' INSTRUMENTS—among the Instruments are Syringes for removing poison from the stomach—Amputating, Trepanning, Ophthalmia, Dentist, Pocket, Dissecting, and Midwifery Instruments—Cranotomy, Tooth, Dressing and Dissecting Forceps—Seton Needles, Trocars, Bistories, Lancets, Pins for Hair lips, &c.

Strict personal attendance paid to Physicians' Prescriptions, and to the delivery of Family Medicines.

Medicine delivered at any hour in the night.

WELLS & LILLY

HAVE just published GOOD'S BOOK OF NATURE, in 2 vols. 8vo.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1827.

NO. 35.

As a number of persons have mistaken the intention of this paper, it has been thought proper to say that its chief object is to promote Health, by pointing out the more common and prevalent causes of disease, and the means of avoiding or of counter-acting them. Health may also be promoted by invigorating and confirming the feeble and valetudinary, and thus rendering them superior to the influence of atmospheric changes and other sources of physical derangement, by which, though harmless to the robust, the tender and susceptible are always in danger of falling into sickness. It is intended to be intelligible to all classes of readers, that it may be made conducive to the improvement and preservation of all.

The Medical Intelligencer in its present size, with its present editor, views and objects, takes its origin from the No. published on the 3d of October last. It is now adapted and intended for the public generally, as well as for the medical profession. The present volume began May 23, 1826.

ORFILA ON POISONS.

Introduction.—Of all severe diseases, those which call for the most prompt relief are the

Asphyxies,* and the various kinds of poisoning. Indeed the preservation of persons suffering under asphyxy and poison always depends on the rapidity, with which the appropriate remedies are applied; and daily experience proves that diseases of this nature seldom terminate fatally, except in consequence of the ignorance of those, who surround the sick at the commencement of the affection.

This consideration induces us to publish the manual, which is now offered to the public, and which we wish to be regarded as a collection merely of the precepts, which are to be followed in the cure of individuals who are poisoned, or are laboring under asphyxy.

We have particularly detailed the manner of preparing and administering the remedies, and have pointed out their doses and the proper time for their exhibition. If we should be charged with

* By "Asphyxy" is understood a suspension of the pulse and the respiration, or "suspended animation."

too great minuteness and repetition, the interest of the sick must serve as our apology.

It may be useful to premise some general remarks on the subjects which we propose to treat.

Mineral Poisons.—The mineral poisons, the history of which we shall present, are the concentrated acids and alkalies, the preparations of arsenic, of copper, antimony, mercury, bismuth, zinc, tin, gold, and silver; nitre, the artificial Bareges baths, sal ammoniac, etc.

We shall begin with the description of the *effects* which they produce, after they have been introduced into the stomach, or applied to wounds.

When the effects are similar to those of another poison which have been previously described, we shall content ourselves with pointing out the number of the paragraph [§] in which they are detailed, and shall thus be able to avoid a great number of repetitions.

Under the title of *General Considerations on the Employment of the Preparations of Copper, Mercury, etc.*, we shall make known the dangers which attend the use of many of these preparations without medical advice; we shall dwell more particularly on those which are deleterious when applied to wounds; and shall finally give all the necessa-

ry directions to escape poisoning.

Under another title, *Means of distinguishing the Preparations of Copper, Arsenic, etc.*, we shall describe the most important character of these poisons, and those which may be verified with the greatest facility; and frequently one or two of these characters will be sufficient for the recognition of the poisonous substance. By the aid of these instructions, physicians, who may be called on to relieve the sick, will be able to determine easily the nature of the poison which has been swallowed, and of course to counteract its effects with the greatest certainty.

Before speaking of the treatment that is to be extended to the poisoned, we shall under the title of *Counter-poisons* or *Antidotes*, examine the claim to this character, which has often been awarded to various substances; shall reject all those which are useless or dangerous, and recommend those only, the efficacy of which has been proved to us by repeated trials; such are, for example, the *white of egg, milk, common salt, vinegar, lemon juice, soap, gallnut*, and some other articles, which may always be procured with great ease.

After the examination of all that relates to counterpoisons,

we shall minutely describe the *method of treatment* of the different poisonings; pointing out the preparation of the remedies which are to be administered, their doses, and the order in which they ought to be taken from the commencement of the affection to convalescence and the complete reestablishment of health.

Vegetable Poisons.—We shall divide the vegetable poisons into three sections, *the irritating*, *the stupifying*, and the *narcoticoacrid*; *the acrid narcotics*.

Each section will begin with the enumeration of the poisons which are comprised in it, and with a general description of their effects. The succeeding article will contain the treatment which should be adopted for the cure of the poisoning; so that the particular histories, which will come next in order, will have no other object than to describe the energy of the poisons, the dangers that attend their use when employed by the ignorant, and the means of distinguishing them from one another.

If, therefore, it is wished to learn the effects and the mode of treatment of poisoning by a vegetable substance, it will be necessary to consult the beginning of each section.

Animal Poisons.—The animal poisons will be arranged

under several heads. We shall first describe the *venoms*, or the effects of the bite of venomous reptiles, of the sting of the scorpion, the bee, the hornet, the spider, the tarantula, the gnat, etc. We shall detail the symptoms produced by these animals, and the methods of relieving them.

Next will come the history of *museles* and of some fishes, which under certain circumstances have proved poisonous.

Finally we shall treat of *hydrophobia*, and of the malignant pustule, the carbuncle, pointing out minutely the means of opposing the ravages, and of preventing the access of these dreadful diseases.

Asphyxies.—These will be treated of with all the particularity which they require. We shall speak of asphyxy by the vapour of charcoal, of limekilns, of vats containing wine or other liquids in a state of fermentation; of the asphyxy of privies, sewers, drains, etc.: of the asphyxy of drowned and hanged persons; and of that which is caused by want of air, by cold, by heat, etc.

We shall describe the processes by which air may be introduced into the lungs of individuals, labouring under asphyxy.

Under the title of *Aid to be extended to Infants born without any Sign of Life*, we

shall speak of the asphyxy and of the apoplexy of new-born children, diseases which cannot be confounded without danger, as the remedies demanded in the one would be hurtful in the other.

Signs of real Death, and Precautions by Means of which the Confusion of the Living with the Dead may be avoided.

—In this article we shall attach their just value to the signs which have been regarded as distinguishing real from apparent death; and shall show that no one of them, taken singly, except the well-

marked state of putrefaction, can determine this question; and that to avoid the most grievous errors, the judgment should be formed on a consideration of all the signs collectively.

Burns.—We shall first speak of those burns which are superficial and of small extent; next of superficial burns, involving a large part of the surface of the body; and lastly of deep burns, giving rise to ulcers of greater or less size.

As a sample of the work, we give the following article on the "PREPARATIONS OF ARSENIC."

SCIENTIFIC NAMES.

Deutoxide of arsenic, or arsenious acid	- - -
Peroxide of arsenic, or arsenic acid	- - -
Arsenate of potash	- - -
Arsenate of soda	- - -
Arsenate of ammonia	- - -
Arsenite of soda	- - -
Yellow sulphuret of arsenic	- - -
Red sulphuret of arsenic	- - -
*Protoxide of arsenic, or	- - -
Black oxide of arsenic	- - -
Arsenical paste.	

ANCIENT NAMES.

White arsenic.	{
White oxide of arsenic.	
Arsenical acid.	
Neutral arsenical salt of Macquer.	
Arsenical salt of soda.	
Arsenical ammonia.	
Arsenical salt of soda.	
Orpiment.	
Realgar.	
This is the black powder which forms on arsenic exposed to the air.	{

Effects of the Preparations of Arsenic.

Remarks on the employment of Arsenical Preparations.— Certain powders and pastes have long had an extensive reputation in the cure of cancers and illconditioned ulcers, under the names of *cancer* powders and *cancer* pastes. Experience, however, proves, that the white oxide of arsenic,

which enters into their composition, may occasion all the symptoms of poisoning, and produce death within twenty-four or forty-eight hours. Applications of this sort, therefore, should be employed with the greatest caution. Other arsenical preparations are much more poisonous when applied to wounds.

The compounds of arsenic, swallowed in doses infinitely small, are powerful poisons;

* Auct. Berzelio et Thenard.

which do not produce death according to the vulgar opinion, by burning the stomach and bowels; but probably they are absorbed, carried into the circulation, and destroy the vital powers of the heart: they often cause inflammation and ulceration of this organ. These facts being established, how hazardous is it to treat tertians, quartans, and other intermittent fevers, with this poison, as has been recommended by some physicians who have dared to administer it frequently and for a long time? Indeed we believe it to be dangerous in diseases of this kind to continue the use of arsenic, whenever it has been given without relief three or four times, *in very small doses and with the greatest caution*; for not only may severe accidents arise soon after the administration of the medicine, but also observation seems to have shown that the patient may acquire a disposition to organic disease of the heart.

Treatment.—In case of poisoning by an arsenical preparation, whether introduced into the stomach or applied to the external surface, the best method of treatment consists in making the patient drink many tumblerfuls of *sugared water*, of *warm* or of *cold water*, decoction of marsh mallow root, or flaxseedtea; by this means the stomach is dis-

tended, vomiting takes place, and of course the poison is rejected. Some glasses may be given also containing a mixture in equal parts of lime water and sugared water. *The-riaca oil, gallnut, cinchona, the bark of the pine, and the pomegranate, liver of sulphur, and vinegar*, recommended by some physicians, ought not to be employed, because they are always useless and often dangerous.

When the severe effects of the poison are mostly removed, and the patient is relieved of the fever, he may be allowed to take veal or chickenbroth; and during convalescence he should take barley-water and oatmeal gruel, mealy potatoes, ricewater, soups, toast and water; but solid food, wine, and spirituous liquors, which would irritate the stomach and cause a return of the inflammation, must be carefully avoided. It should be constantly remembered that wine, which is considered by many persons to be proper for raising the strength and powers that are apparently exhausted, is, in the present case, a new poison, which acts exactly like that, the effects of which have just been counteracted. But if the above means do not afford relief, and the disease continues or becomes aggravated, if the pains in the abdomen are very great

and the individual has convulsive motions, leeches and bleeding must be prescribed, and when it is rendered certain that all the poison, which has not acted, is neutralized, the attention must be given to the cure of the inflammation which is developed. For this purpose linen cloths dipped in a strong decoction of flaxseed, of the root of marsh mallow, *althaea officinalis*, or of the flowers of the common mallow, *malva silvestris*, should be applied warm to the belly; and if the patient is not able to support the weight of these cloths laid on his abdomen, it should be kept wet with the liquids by means of a sponge; or, what is still better, he should be put into a warm bath. If prompt and marked relief is not obtained, venesection must be performed in the arm, and from twelve to fifteen leeches be applied to the most painful part of the abdomen. If, under the application of the leeches, the pain should shift to another place, this new point of irritation must be, without hesitation, surrounded with the same number of leeches; and should a new displacement of the pain require it, no danger is to be apprehended from the third application of fifteen or twenty: the salvation of the patient depends absolutely on the abundance with which the

blood is made to flow: the debility, then, which may result from this evacuation, is to be regarded as a slight inconvenience.

These external means of cure will be much assisted by the use of mild drink, such as water holding gum in solution, flaxseed tea, decoction of marsh mallow, etc.; all kinds of food whatever, not excepting mild soups, must be interdicted.

Means of distinguishing the Preparations of Arsenic.—*

White Arsenic, deutoxide of arsenic, is found under the form of a white powder like sugar; but it is much more heavy; is volatilized and diffuses the odor of garlic when put on a hot iron† or burning coals; is not soluble, in any sensible quantity, in cold water; and it affords a beautiful green color by the addition of the blue ammoniacal sulphate of copper. The solution of white arsenic in water, gives a white precipitate with lime-water; a yellow, with hydro-sulphuric acid, sulphureted hydrogen, and with the hydrosulphates, if a few drops of nitric acid are added; the precipitate by the ammoniacal sulphate of copper, is green.

* See Gosham's Chemistry, page 159, vol. ii.; and Bigelow's Sequel, page 36.

† When a hot iron is used, some inflammable substance must also be present; otherwise the smell of garlic will not be given out.

Arsenic acid is white; gives out the odor of garlic when placed on burning coals; dissolves readily in water; and changes to a clear blue, when it is mixed with the ammoniacal sulphate of copper. Its aqueous solution reddens water of turnsol and litmus; forms a white precipitate with the waters of barytes, and of lime; a brickred, with nitrate of silver; and a bluish white, with acetate of copper. *Orpiment* is yellow; exposed to a red heat with potash, it gives out the odor of garlic; as does also *realgar*, which is distinguished by its red color. The protoxide, flypowder, is of a blackish color; placed on burning coals, it gives out fumes having the odor of garlic; and becomes green, after remaining some hours in the ammoniacal sulphate of copper.

Dr. Stevenson has discovered judgment in selecting for the exercise of his talents, a work of great merit, and of general application. It fills a chasm in the physician's library, which no other book can do, and will give to the public information highly conducive to the health and preservation of the people. The translation is accurate and faithful, and is executed in a neat and scholarlike manner, far superior to most contributions of this sort.

From the Christian Intelligencer.

I was called on to attend a young lady, whose natural disposition had been extremely

cheerful, till a severe fit of sickness damped her spirits, and rendered her averse to all those lively pleasures which fascinate the youthful mind. The debility of her frame, and the change of her temper were not sufficiently attended to in the early stages of her convalescence. The anxiety of her mind was visible in the altered features of her face; and she was frequently heard to express a melancholy regret, that she had consumed so many hours in the frivolous, though innocent, amusements of the age. Time increased, by almost imperceptible degrees, these symptoms of approaching melancholy; and at length exhibited themselves by penitential lamentations of the sins she had committed with respect to the most trifling actions of her life, and in which no shadow of offence could possibly be found. At the time I was called in, this superstitious melancholy was attended with certain indications of mental derangement. The distemper clearly originated in the indisposition of the body, and the gloomy apprehensions which disease and pain had introduced into the mind, during a period of many months. This once lively, handsome, but now almost insane female, was daily attacked with such violent paroxysms of her complaint, that she lost

all sense of her situation, and exclaimed, in horrid distraction and deep despair, that her perdition was already accomplished, and that *the fiends were waiting to receive her soul, and plunge it into the bitterest torments of hell.* Her constitution however, still fortunately retained sufficient strength to enable me, by the power of medicine, gradually to change its temperament, and to reduce the violence of the fever, which had been long preying on her life. Her mind became more calm in proportion as her nerves recovered their former tone; and when her intellectual powers were in a condition to be acted on with effect, I successfully counteracted the baleful effects of Superstition by the wholesome infusion of real Religion, and restored, by degrees, a lovely, young, and virtuous woman, to her family and herself.

Another instance of a similar nature occurred very recently, in which the patient experienced all those symptoms which prognosticate the approach of religious melancholy, and the completion of whose sorrow and despondency would quickly have been effected, if good fortune had not deprived her of the advice of an ignorant and bigoted priest, to whom her friends, when I was called in, had resolved to apply. This young

lady, whose mind remained pure and uncorrupted amidst all the luxuries and dissipations which usually accompany illustrious birth and elevated station, possessed by nature great tranquillity of disposition, and lived with quietude and content, far retired from the pleasures of the world. I had been long acquainted with her family, and entertained for them the warmest esteem. The dangerous condition of her health gave me great anxiety and concern; for whenever she was left one moment to herself, and even in company, whenever she closed her eyes, a thousand horrid spectres presented themselves to her disordered mind, and seemed ready to devour her from every corner of the apartment. I inquired whether these imaginary spectres made any impression on the affections of her heart; but she answered in the negative, and described the horrors which she felt from the supposed fierceness of their eyes, and the threatening gesticulation of their bodies. I endeavored to compose her, by assuring her that they were the creatures of her own fancy, the wild chimeras of a weakened brain; that her long course of ill health had affected her mind; and that, when a proper course of medicine, dietetic regimen, and gentle exercise, had restor-

ed her strength, these dreadful appearances would give way to the most delightful visions. The course I pursued succeeded in a short time beyond my most sanguine expectations, and I raised her languid powers to health and happiness. But if she had confided the anxieties of her mind to her confessor, instead of her physicians, the holy father would, in all probability, have ascribed her gloomy apprehensions to the machinations of the devil, and have used nothing but purely spiritual antidotes to destroy them, which would have increased the melancholy, and possibly have thrown her into the darkest abyss of madness and despair.—*Zimmerman.*

We see from cases like these how desirable and important it is that physicians should be, not only men of professional ability, but men of reason, morality and religion. Had the dark, difficult and perplexing sentiments of some creeds been pressed on these feeble bodies, tender, wavering and despondent minds, there can be little doubt that they would have been driven to insanity, or become the irrecoverable victims of a cruel and horrible superstition.

FISHER'S ENGRAVINGS.

WELLS & LILLY propose to publish by subscription, a Series of Engravings, illustrative of the different Stages of the SMALLPOX and VARILOID DISEASE; to which will be added an Engraving representing the VAC-

CINE and CHICKENPOX Eruptions during their course. By J. D. FISHER, M. D.

It is a matter of no little astonishment, that the diseases which have so long excited the attention and fears of mankind, as have the smallpox and varioloid disease, and which have proved so destructive to human life and happiness, should never, down to the present moment, have been exhibited to the public by the means of colored engravings; and it has been the subject of wonder and of regret to many of the physicians and medical professors of our country, that Willan, and Bateman, and Alibert should have failed to introduce specimens of the eruptions of these diseases into their valuable and splendid works. Each of these works was intended, by its respective author, to present to the eye a complete system of cutaneous eruptions, including every variety to which the skin is subject, and yet two of the most important, and most interesting of them, have not been represented. It is to supply the deficiency left in these treatises, but more especially to furnish the physicians of the United States with sure and constant means of recognizing these diseases when they meet with them, that the above work has been prepared for publication.

The work will be composed of twelve plates, quarto size, and a number of pages of text explanatory of them.

The first four plates will contain a portrait of a child who had the distinct smallpox in the natural way. On this portrait the eruptions will be exhibited as they appeared on the first, third, fifth, and the seventh day of their existence.

The four succeeding plates will contain a portrait of an adult, on which will be represented the eruptions of the varioloid disease of the distinct kind, just as they presented themselves on the second, fourth, sixth, and the eighth day after they appeared.

The three next plates will also contain a portrait of an adult, on which will be represented the varioloid eruptions of the *confluent kind*, in the form and state in which they existed on the *fourth, sixth, and the eighth day*, on which will be represented the Varioloid Eruptions of the *confluent kind*, in the form and state in which they existed on the *fourth, sixth, and the eighth day* of their progress.

The inferior portion of each of these plates, or that which is not occupied by the portrait, will be divided into a number of compartments, on which will be exhibited a case of inoculated smallpox, and a number of the varieties to which the smallpox and varioloid disease are subject.

The paintings, from which these eleven plates are to be engraved, and of which they are to be the exact copies, were made in Paris, in 1825-6, at the time when the diseases which they are to represent, prevailed epidemically in that city. They were executed by a French artist for, and under the immediate direction and personal observation of the author of the proposed publication, and were all commenced and finished at the bedside of the patients from whom they were taken.

On the *twelfth* and last plate it is proposed to introduce a painting illustrative of the first appearance, the progress and termination of the cowpock and chickenpox pustules; forming in all a family of most interesting diseases. The engravings will be printed on the best drawing paper, and will be colored by the author's own hand, or under his immediate inspection.—The text will be printed on a large, fair type, and on handsome paper.

The volume will be bound in boards,—price to subscribers, ten dollars.

The paintings will be placed in the hands of the engraver, when a number of subscribers shall have been obtained sufficient to justify the

undertaking of a work, so expensive as this must necessarily be. It is unnecessary to say anything respecting the want, or the importance of the work now proposed. Almost every medical man in our country must feel the want of it, and every reflecting citizen cannot but appreciate the importance which such a work would be to society.

A number of medical gentlemen, who are familiar with the peculiar characters of the variolous diseases, have examined the abovementioned paintings, and have expressed to the author their approbation of them in letters, some of which are attached.

Here follow letters to Dr. Fisher from the following eminent physicians, expressing their decided opinion of the great value of these drawings, and their best wishes for the author's success, Drs. Holyoke, Fisher, Welsh, Jackson and Warren.

Every ship in the U. S. Navy should be furnished with a copy of these engravings, and every town or county throughout the Union would do well to procure one likewise, for the use of town officers, civil magistrates, and the medical profession.

The Influence of Civic Life, Sedentary Habits, and Intellectual Refinement, on the Digestive Organs, through the medium of Food.

(Continued from p. 178.)

The tissue or membrane which lines the digestive organs from the mouth downwards, is a *secreting surface*, that is constantly pouring forth a fluid which is necessary for the digestion of the food in every stage of its progress. Now, when any gland, or secreting surface, is *overexcited*, the fluid secreted becomes unnatural in quantity and quality. It is sometimes increased; but always depraved. This is familiarly exemplified when the mucous membrane, lining

the nose and airtubes of the lungs, happens to be acted on by atmospheric transitions, as in a common cold. At first, the membrane is dry and half inflamed; afterwards a more copious secretion than usual comes pouring forth, and of so acrid a quality as to excoriate the nose and lips themselves. It is so with the mucous membrane lining the stomach and bowels. When *inordinately* excited by the quality or quantity of food and drink, the secretions are irregular and morbid, and therefore a constant source of *irritation* is generated in this important class of organs. This irritation is manifested by some pain or uneasy sensation in the line of the digestive organs; irregularity of their functions, particularly of the alvine evacuations; and an unnatural state of the tongue and urine.

But with these organs almost every part of the human system sympathizes, and the discerning physician can plainly detect their derangement in the state of the mind, the nerves, the muscles, and the skin. Let it be remembered, that when any one part of the system is *inordinately* excited, some other part or parts are deprived of their due share of vital energy, as we see every day exemplified in what is termed *derivation*. Now when so large a portion of this vital energy is kept constantly concentrated round the digestive apparatus, it is easy to see that the animal and intellectual systems must severally feel the loss. The shattered state of the nerves, the irritability of the temper, and the want of tone in the muscles, which hourly present themselves in luxurious and civic society, afford the most convincing evidence of the truth of these positions.

This is one view of the affair; but there are various others. It often happens, that such is the strength of the constitution, and the efforts of Nature to counteract the morbid effects of *repletion*, that a degree of

robustness or corpulency succeeds these luxurious habits, and thus the evil consequences are masked for a time. But the fact is, that the *superabundant* supply of nutrition, which is poured into the blood vessel system, is deposited in the shape of fat; Nature being unable to throw it off by other outlets. This deposition is only *comparatively* salutary; and, in truth, the corpulent habit and ruddy complexion are too often but the index of a *morbid* excess of health, and the preludes to most violent and dangerous diseases.

Another mode in which Nature frees herself, for a time, from the effects of superabundant nutrition, is by throwing out eruptions and other unsightly blotches on the skin, by which means she often saves internal organs from a dangerous irritation. This is proved by the certainty and safety with which the whole of these cutaneous affections may be speedily removed by improving the state of the digestive organs, lessening the quantity and simplifying the quality of food, and by the judicious use of the warm bath. On the other hand, when Nature is interrupted in her work, and these cutaneous blemishes are incautiously repelled by external applications, the irritation is almost certain to fall on some internal organ, and there cause a painful sensation or inflammatory action, according as the nervous or vascular structure of the part be predisposed to disease. Thus, in one constitution, on the repulsion of an eruption from the skin, the irritation is transferred to the lungs, and there excites pulmonary consumption. In another, it is transferred to the mucous membrane of the stomach, and heartburn, or pain in the stomach, or indigestion, or even chronic inflammation of this organ may ensue. In the third, the liver becomes the seat of the translated irritation, and the various phenomena of bilious or hepatic derangements are developed. The intestines, the

kidneys nay the coverings of the brain itself, may, and often do, suffer in this way, with a host of corresponding miseries. All these, however, may be avoided by removing the cause or origin of the cutaneous eruption, as seated in the digestive organs, when the effect will soon cease.

But among the wonderful variety of means by which Nature counteracts the repletion resulting from too much and too rich food, stands GOUT. This, though a severe disease in itself, is yet an undoubted remedy or preventive of numerous other and more fatal ones. After a course of luxurious living, of longer or shorter duration, according to peculiarity of constitution, the human machine can no longer bear the rich tide of nutriment which daily flows through the interior organs, without danger of some of its channels giving way, and suddenly snapping the thread of life, as happens in apoplexy, the bursting of bloodvessels, &c. Nature, alarmed, now adopts a severe but a salutary measure. She generally gives notice of the approach of her operation, by first deranging the functions of the stomach, for a few days, with occasional premonitory sensations in other parts of the body, as coldness of the feet, &c. Then the storm bursts. A paroxysm of pain and irritation is kindled up on some extreme part of the body, and the whole constitution is kept, during a time, in a feverish and restless condition, while a daily and critical discharge by the skin and kidneys reduces the system to a certain point compatible with health, when a calm ensues—the functions of the stomach and other organs resume their accustomed tone, and the luxurious advocate of civic society returns to the pleasures of the table with renovated vigor.

Woe to the man who rashly interferes with, or suddenly checks this salutary process of Nature, whether by internal or external means! He who

does so, has little knowledge of the animal economy, or little concern for the future welfare of the patient. True it is, that the operations of Nature, even when they are of a curative description, as they almost always are, must frequently be restrained, regulated, or spurred on, and in this consists the great art of the physician. But when the pain and irritation of Gout are not suffered to be moderately expended on some member at a distance from the vital centre; when a violent commotion is raised in the system by internal remedies; or when the inflammation is suddenly arrested by external cold, then, in all probability, will the irritation be transferred to some interior organ or tissue, and there manifest itself, at some future day, in the shape of a chronic disease, which may bid defiance to the powers of medicine. This consideration should

—make us rather bear those ills we have,
Than fly to others which we know not of.

These then are the prominent evils which, in civic society as now constituted, flow from redundancy and richness of food combined with sedentary habits; and a contemplation of them naturally leads us to the institution of a comparison or parallel of great moral and physical interest. But first let us say a few words on the remedies.

In my work on ‘the Influence of the Atmosphere,’ I have entered fully into the nature, cause, and treatment of the disordered state of the digestive organs. I may here only observe, that prevention, of course, depends on *temperance*, and the cure almost entirely on a well conducted course of *aperient* medicine, with or without the decoction of sarsaparilla. The *kind* of aperient must depend on the particular organ whose *function* is most disturbed, or whose structure may be in danger. This discrimination re-

quires an accurate examination of all the phenomena, and of the state of the liver and other abdominal organs. Then the cure will proceed with ease and certainty.

James Johnson.

IMPORTANT HINT.

For the cure of a vitiated palate, we cannot suggest a better remedy than *temperance* and occasional *abstinence*.

Dr. Willich.

WHAT IS WISDOM ?

From Bolster's Quarterly Magazine.

I ask'd the sage, when wandering afar
In search of Wisdom's bright and burning star,
What 's wisdom ?—He exclaimed with tearful eyes,
“ The fear of God 's the Wisdom of the wise.”

I ask'd the rainbow's changing tints of light,
The glorious harbinger of mercy bright ;—
“ 'Twas Wisdom rob'd me thus, the earth to span,
And bade me lull the fearful heart of man.”

I ask'd the ocean—and its ceaseless tide
In hollow murmurs to my voice replied—
“ Behold my swelling waves their ebb and flow,
The hand of Wisdom marks how far they'll go.”

Then I pursued the pure and golden sun,
And found him nearly when his course was done ;
“ O stay me not,” he cried, “ check not my pace,
'T is Wisdom's work to run the heavenly race !”

I asked the stars to track me Wisdom's way,
In the high heaven of glory where they lay ;
“ 'Tis Wisdom's path,” they cried, “ that we have trod,
The path to Wisdom is—the will of God !”

I ask'd the moon, the moon that shone afar,
In her pale light within her crescent car,—
“ Wisdom is knowledge of the hand divine
That bade me be—and plac'd me here to shine.”

The silver spheres caught up the heav'nly song,
Echo'd through endless space, it roll'd along ;
Angels rejoic'd and fill'd with holy fires,
Tun'd unto Wisdom all their golden lyres.

“ Wisdom 's the influence brightly glowing,
From the Almighty's glory ever flowing !
Th' unspotted mirror of his power and might !
The radiance of the everlasting light.

Then earthborn man attune thy sacred lyre,
And join the chorus of the heavenly choir,
In praise to the Creator God above,
Whose word is Wisdom, and whose voice is love.

**EXTRAORDINARY INSTANCE OF NATURAL
AFFECTION AND FERO CITY OF A CAT.**

The following facts are well authenticated:—A family in the Lower Town of Quebec, had a cat with kittens about two months old; one day the mistress of the house had occasion to open a cupboard where provisions were kept, and on shutting it a kitten got squeezed by the door, and uttering a loud and piercing cry. The mistress of the house, after seeing that it was disengaged, apparently not much hurt, turned to go to another part of the room. Presently the mother of the kitten came in, went up to it, and then flew furiously at the mistress of the house, first biting and scratching her legs, thighs and arms, and proceeding to her neck, on which she fixed; the woman used her hands to preserve her eyes, lowering her head to save her throat; her cries alarmed her husband, who came into the room to her assistance, the cat then let go her hold, received a kick, passed under the stove to the other side of it, where she was followed by the man, she then repassed making again at the woman; but being pursued she went out of the door, which was immediately closed. She then began to fly up against the door uttering hideous cries; the family were so much alarmed that assistance was had, and finally the cat was killed on entering the door, partially opened for the purpose. The woman was much hurt, but her wounds are nearly healed. The cat had frequently shown symptoms of boldness and ferocity when irritated, but never before in a way to excite alarm in the family.

RED APPEARANCE OF THE TONGUE.

Dr. Recamier, Physician to the Hotel Dieu, of Paris, in his late Hospital Reports, observes, "It is very necessary in order to judge exactly of the color of the tongue, to observe the manner in which the patient puts it out. He thinks the

tongue often blushes, like the face, in consequence of a moral impression; and that the presence of the physician sometimes produces this effect on a timid bashful maid—a numerous set, no doubt, in a French Hospital;—"here," says the doctor, "the practitioner may be in error, who hastily states the tongue to be red."

When a physician, therefore, examines the tongue of a lady, he should be careful not to look much at her face, lest he should, by making her blush, heighten the redness of the tongue.—*Dr. Reece's Gazette of Health for Oct.*

CURE FOR THE TOOTHACHE.

At a recent meeting of the London Medical Society, Dr. Blake stated that the extraction or excision of teeth was unnecessary. He was enabled, he said, to cure the most desperate cases of toothache, unless the disease was connected with rheumatism, by the application of the following remedy to the diseased tooth:—"Alum, reduced to an impalpable powder, 2 drachms; spirit of nitrous ether, 7 drachms; mix, and apply them to the tooth." Mr. Fay, the American dentist, who was present, admitted, with much candor, that in 95 cases out of 100 where surgeons and dentists are applied to for the purpose of extraction, relief might be obtained without that, or even excision.

COCHINEAL.

This insect divided the learned for a considerable time as to whether it was a vegetable or animal substance; depositions were taken in form by persons on the spot, and printed, before the question was settled. It is now acknowledged to be an insect living on the *opuntia*, or Indian fig, and passes a great part of its life fixed to the vegetable body on which it feeds, without change, or ever appearing in any other state. The value of cochineal, as a drug

for dying the bright colors of scarlet and crimson, is well known. No duty is ever charged on its importation, and every effort has been made to extract its coloring particles, and to take advantage of its application. A curious instance of this occurs in the silktrade. A pound of silk containing eight score threads to the ounce, each thread seventytwo yards long, will reach to the length of between one hundred and four and five miles; now a pound of this silk dyed scarlet, does not receive above a drachm additional weight, so that a drachm of the coloring matter of the cochineal is actually extended more than one hundred miles in length, and yet this minute quantity is sufficient to give an intense color to the silk with which it is combined.

Instrument for ascertaining the presence of Animal Matter in the Atmosphere.—Dr. Granville is stated to have invented an instrument which, by means of a preparation of chlorine, enables him to ascertain not only whether animal matter, in a state of decomposition, be floating in the air, but also the quantity of such matter; a knowledge which cannot be obtained by the usual apparatus for analyzing atmospheric air, and the importance of which, to the medical profession, must be obvious. He purposed calling the instrument the *Septometer*.

CHAMOMILE.

A medical correspondent at Madrid, has acquainted a friend in Ireland with some astonishing effects of the herb chamomile, in certain inflammatory disorders of the eye, when every other remedy, usually prescribed, had proved abortive. The following, among many cases, wherein the doctor has been concerned, is mentioned as a proof of the virtues of this salutary though common herb. Maria de Maros, daughter of a master carpenter, had for many years, been afflicted with

weeping eyes, which discharged an acrimonious fluid, that brought on an almost total loss of sight. Alternatives were prescribed to no purpose; nor could a course of mercury procure the smallest alleviation. At length he made a strong decoction of chamomile, boiled in sweet cow's milk: with this the patient bathed her eyes several times a day, as warm as could be suffered without uneasiness; and in about five weeks, her eyes were perfectly cured.

When I see leaves dropping from the trees in the beginning of autumn, just such, thinks I, is the friendship of the world. While the sap of maintenance lasts, my friends swarm in abundance; but in the winter of my need they leave me naked. He is a happy man who has a true friend in his need, but he is a more truly happy man who has no need of his friend. *Arthur Warwick.*

When Constantius was chosen emperor he found several christians in office, and he issued an edict requiring them to renounce their faith, or quit their places. Most of them gave up their offices, to preserve their consciences.—But some cringed and renounced christianity. When the emperor had thus made full proof of their disposition and character, he removed all who thus basely complied with his supposed wishes, and retained the others, saying, “that those who would desert or deny their divine master, would desert him, and were not worthy of his confidence.

The snow on Long Island is 2 feet 8 inches deep on a level; in the vicinity of Albany, 26 inches; in Castleton, Vermont, 3 feet; in Keene, N. H., 18 inches. The Delaware, Patapsco, Potomac, Rappahanock, &c. are bridged with ice, and the harbors of Philadelphia and Baltimore are closed.

THE REMEDIES.

For the *gout*, *toast* and *water*; for *bile*, *exercise* in the *gymnasium*; for *corns*, *easy shoes*; for *rheumatism*, the *vapor bath*; for the *toothache*, *extraction*; for *love*, *reciprocity*; for *poverty*, *health*, *industry*, and *economy*.

Mr. H. Ball had the following notice posted up round his grounds at Oatlands. "As Mr. Ball does not intend to *shoot himself* here this season, he trusts nobody else will do so."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

THE MEDICAL LECTURES in *Brown University*, R. I. will be commenced on the fourth Thursday in February, 1827, and be continued about three months. Tickets to all the Lectures—\$40.

BREWER & BROTHERS.

THE Copartnership heretofore existing under the firm of BARTLETT & BREWER, Druggists, was dissolved on the 31st ult.

SAMUEL N. BREWER, the junior partner, having succeeded to the business, has associated himself with his brothers, NATHANIEL BREWER, M.D.—and WILLIAM A. BREWER, who has been six years in the store. They will continue the business of Druggists and Apothecaries, at the old stand, Sign of the Good Samaritan, No. 92, Washington Street, under the firm of SAMUEL N. BREWER & BROTHERS, and promising every possible attention to their business, respectfully solicit patronage.

SAMUEL N. BREWER,
NATHANIEL BREWER,
WILLIAM A. BREWER.

Boston, January 1, 1827.

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber informs the Public that he has recently enlarged his accommodations for Insane Persons, and feels confident that he can now render suitable attention to all classes and characters of this description. He has devoted for ten years past, much of his time and

study to this part of medical science, —and his past success induces him to continue his attention to this branch of medical practice.

The beauty of the natural scenery of this place, the salubrity of the atmosphere and the purity of the water, are equal to any in the State.—Thus the place is very favorable to all kinds of exercise, which is a very important aid in the treatment of diseases affecting the mind.

He will, as formerly, accommodate and attend to the wants and calls of other patients, and to surgical operations.

NEHEMIAH CUTLER, M. D.

Pepperell, Ms. Jan. 8, 1827.

ATHENEUM:
OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.
FOR JANUARY 15, 1827,

JUST published by John Cotton, 184 Washington St. corner of Franklin St.

CONTENTS.—Greece. Ali Pasha—The Bachelor's Beat. No. II.—The Touchy Lady—King Richard III. and his Son—Elian Walters. A Tale of Hallow Eve—The Minister's Mare—Character of Nero Cæsar. From a Work printed in 1635—Lady Margaret Leviston—The Trick of a German Student—The Bridal Robe—Rules for Joking in Company—Rigid Dissenters in Russia.

ORFILA'S PRACTICAL TREATISE,
ON Poisons, Asphyxies, Burns, and Apparent Death—adapted to general use—translated by J. G. STEVENSON, M. D.—with a Medicolegal, Chemical, and Anatomical Appendix, for the use of Physicians—1 vol. duodecimo.

Extract from a Report of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris.

"This work of M. ORFILA must become universally esteemed, as it is freed from scientific terms, and is reduced to precepts the most simple, yet sufficient to effect the object proposed.

"It is to be wished that Government would take the necessary measures to distribute it among all classes of society; and especially that it may be in the hands of *Medical Practitioners*, the *Clergy*, and *Municipal Officers*, to whom a knowledge of its subjects is indispensable."

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THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1827.

NO. 36.

As a number of persons have mistaken the intention of this paper, it has been thought proper to say that its chief object is to promote Health, by pointing out the more common and prevalent causes of disease, and the means of avoiding or of counteracting them. Health may also be promoted by invigorating and confirming the feeble and valetudinary, and thus rendering them superior to the influence of atmospheric changes and other sources of physical derangement, by which, though harmless to the robust, the tender and susceptible are always in danger of falling into sickness. It is intended to be intelligible to all classes of readers, that it may be made conducive to the improvement and preservation of all.

The Medical Intelligencer in its present size, with its present editor, views and objects, takes its origin from the No. published on the 3d of October last. It is now adapted and intended for the public generally, as well as for the medical profession. The present volume began May 23, 1826.

SULPHUR BATHING.

The safety and utility of the fumes of burning sulphur, as applied to the surface of the body, in the

treatment of various diseases, are so well established in several countries of Europe, and so partially and imperfectly understood among us, that we have thought it might be acceptable both to the medical and general reader, to see Mr. Green's account of its introduction and effects in England.*

Introductory Observations.—The valuable remedy, which is the subject of the present publication, though it is spoken of by several medical writers, by Hippocrates and Celsus, by Glauber and Boerhaave, was first practised to any useful extent in France. So beneficial, so astonishing, were its effects in that country, that they awakened the attention, procured the aid, and secured the protection, of its vigilant government; but this aid and

* The Utility and Importance of Fumigating Baths illustrated: or, a Series of Facts and Remarks, showing the Origin, Progress, and final Establishment, by order of the French Government, of the Practice of Fumigations for the Cure of various Diseases of the Joints, Paralytic Affections, Gout, Rheumatism, Bilious and Nervous Disorders, all Complaints of long standing, and Diseases of the Skin. Second Edition. By JONATHAN GREEN, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and late Surgeon in his Majesty's Navy. London. 1826.

protection were not obtained till it had passed through a slow and strict ordeal, which was intended, according to the results of the investigation, either to overthrow its claims to praise and to adoption, or to establish its merits and utility on a solid foundation, and on proofs and conclusions which were decisive and unequivocal. That the result was extremely favorable,—that the testimony which this ordeal afforded, was highly satisfactory, the statements and extracts, introduced into the following pages, will be sufficient to show. In confirmation of them, the original documents, which have been published in France, and have excited among its medical men a very strong sensation, may be appealed to and consulted.

The remedy was first resorted to in a very inconvenient mode, for the cure of that simple, though frequent, troublesome, and contagious complaint, *scabies*, or itch, which it invariably cures, without the aid of any other remedy, either external or internal. Every improvement in art or science must have its origin, and frequently in circumstances that seem at first trifling,—thus the laws of gravity originated in the fall of an apple, and Britannia's power may be deduced from the culture of the acorn. Though

the remedy here considered has long been under the consideration of the faculty, it is to Dr. Gales that the public are indebted, as chiefly instrumental in bringing it into general and useful application. His mode was, at first, attended with many inconveniences, such as would arise from medicated fumes, more or less powerful, affecting the organs of respiration; but as these objections, from the exercise of ingenuity and practice, were gradually overcome, the government of France judged it right to grant him a pension of 6000 francs per annum, and the exclusive privilege of having several private bathhouses in the city of Paris. Dr. Gales likewise possesses many valuable presents received from the allied sovereigns, and persons of the first distinction, who witnessed the curative process of these baths at his house. This remedy, however, notwithstanding its acknowledged importance and growing celebrity, might, from the inconveniences attendant on the employment of it, have fallen into disuse, had it not been for the interposition of Dr. D'Arcet, a man of science and ingenuity, who succeeded in inventing an apparatus, by which all the former obstacles were removed; and even the face, in his improved apparatus, may be submitted

to the medicated fumes, the patient breathing at the time through a tube terminating in the external air. The apparatus, indeed, is now so complete as to leave nothing more to be desired ; and it is acknowledged, that, whilst Dr. Gales has the merit of having brought this desideratum into general practice, Dr. D'Arcet has the praise of having invented the best mode for its application. This remedy, which was at first awkwardly applied, and which was confined to an inconsiderable complaint, is now, from a more correct knowledge of its merits and effects, and from a *perfect arrangement of parts*, conveniently applied, and found to be, under judicious application, a pleasant, a safe, and in numerous instances a certain remedy for various diseases, which no one could have anticipated at the time of its being first brought into notice.

Diseases of the skin are so numerous, and assume such varied appearances, as to produce much perplexity with respect to their classification. The physiology and pathology of diseases of the skin, when compared with our knowledge of other diseases, are allowed by the best informed men in the medical world to be in a very backward state. For reasons difficult to explain, medical men have not given to

this class of diseases the attention which their frequent occurrence demand. When the obstinacy and contagiousness of these diseases are considered, it will, perhaps, seem inexplicable. Dr. Willan was the first who had the ability and inclination to break through the apparent apathy, in his valuable and elaborate work on Cutaneous Diseases, which will be to him a lasting monument of fame ; and to this succeeded the valuable Synopsis of the much revered Dr. Bateman. The latter was, indeed, anxiously alive to the importance of the introduction into this country of the remedy here spoken of. Their very meritorious publications, on this neglected subject, have been followed by a costly and very comprehensive work, written by Dr. Alibert, physician to the present king of France, and to the hospital of St. Louis.

Dr. Gales, upwards of twenty years chief apothecary at the hospital of St. Louis, in Paris, was the principal person who promoted the establishment of the mode here treated of for curing diseases of the skin. But its useful application did not here terminate ; for patients, who were suffering variously, from *sciatica, palsy, rheumatism, glandular obstructions*, and from other diseases, at the same time

with complaints of the skin, for which they took the fumigations, were found to be not only cured of the latter, but frequently of their former complaints, which had before been considered hopeless. It was this circumstance which first arrested the attention of some of the faculty of physic, at Paris, and which afterwards occasioned the French government to issue its directions.

Dr. de Carro, of Vienna, was the next person who became much interested in propagating this remedy. Hence it is as fully established in Germany as it is in France, Edinburgh has the honor of having contributed to the education of this indefatigable and learned physician, who introduced so effectually the discovery of the late Dr. Jenner into Germany, where vaccination is never spoken of in the indeterminate manner with which many speak of it in this country.

That this publication may not be swelled to too large a size, the writer will adduce only a few cases illustrative of the practice. These will, he trusts, be for *the present sufficient*: otherwise he could quote cases almost without number, which have been already published, and which carry conviction with them, having been written and approved by the first *civil and medical authori-*

ties in Paris, as well as in other places. Of the latter there are eighteen or twenty of the professors of the medical schools of Paris, and upwards of forty physicians and surgeons of the first eminence, and most of them public teachers; of the former, as will, indeed, in some degree appear in the present publication, many personally attended,—so powerful an interest did the new remedy excite.

This practice commonly renders a tedious course of internal medicines unnecessary. Thus, the coats of the stomach and bowels, which are so important to the present ease and the future health of the patient, and which will have so great an influence on his length of life and amount of enjoyment, will be preserved from deterioration and injury; at the same time, that his expenses will be diminished, his convenience consulted, and his avocations facilitated.

In some cases, and those by no means of unfrequent occurrence, such as syphilitic cases, where a long continued use of medicine has proved totally unavailable, a few of these fumigating bathings seem to call forth, in the constitution, new powers; and the patient's immersion in a short series of fumigating baths appears, in many instances, an excellent and efficacious sub-

stitute, a substitute which happily can be rapidly resorted to without the delays, the risks, and the formidable expenses of a protracted journey, for his introduction into a warmer and more genial climate. In France, in Germany, and some adjoining countries, these fumigating baths have been found to possess a high and admirable degree of efficacy; but in Great Britain and in Ireland, where the climate is more damp and often more cold, where the pores of the skin are consequently more frequently closed, and where animal food is more extensively used, their efficacy will be found to be still more decisive.

The effect which these fumigating baths will have in connexion with the subject and use of *medicine*, constitutes another of the principal boasts, and of the most gratifying recommendations, attendant on their employment. In an infinite variety of cases, they will be found to supersede the necessity, and to preclude the expediency, of employing medicines; and, where the contemporaneous or subsequent use of medicine is proper, which will also happen in a vast variety of instances, of which a skilful physician will be the best judge, they will be found to facilitate their operation, and to ensure their

efficacy. Thus, these fumigating baths will prove to be, in innumerable cases, a most suitable accompaniment and a most powerful auxiliary to a judicious course of medicine. Medicines, which before were the source only of inconvenience and expense, and which baffled the skill of the physician, and disappointed the hopes of the patient, because they were inert, and would not affect the system, after the preparatory or concomitant use of these bathings, often operate with facility, and even when they are administered in doses, which are small, and, therefore, both safe and convenient.

No medical truth has, indeed, received more general assent than the inefficacy of medicines, taken inwardly, for the cure of cutaneous complaints. External remedies stand much in the same predicament; and it was not till the discovery of the application of medical gases, that these diseases have been combated with success.

This great desideratum became of double value, on its being ascertained, with what great efficacy it could be applied to some of the most obstinate and perplexing diseases to which the human body is liable.

But the previous statements, weighty as they are, will im-

part only an imperfect idea of the importance and utility of fumigating baths. They may be made not only a preparative to the efficacious employment of medicine, but also may be used as a medium for its introduction into the human body. When it is considered how extensive is the surface of the human body, how numerous are its pores, and how capable they are of receiving and imbibing beneficial influences in an imperceptible and invisible way ; they being, in fact, so many minute inlets into the interior of the system, how deeply is it to be regretted that so long a succession of centuries have been suffered to pass away, without any extensive and important use having been made of their capabilities and powers !

This active, penetrating, and pleasant mode of administering medicines in the gaseous form, is obvious ; and, as it is now become usual to administer aqueous vapor in the first instance, by means of the same apparatus, and thereby to dislodge all obstructing particles on the surface, the medicines come in immediate contact with the open pores of the skin, and its efficacy is soon developed.

The writer does not hesitate, indeed, to affirm, that, during the whole time he has

been collecting practical knowledge, he has never met with any remedy, during nineteen years, so deserving of his approbation, and so generally efficacious. His experience has taught him, that it is not to local diseases only that it is applicable, but that it is serviceable more particularly with respect to those diseases the most inveterate, which length of time has forced us to denominate *constitutional*. Nay, even those called the *hereditary*, it has very frequently been known completely to eradicate.

The class of medicines called Alteratives it would seem almost to supersede, but he trusts this assertion may not be received with an *empirical* interpretation.

Sulphureous fumigations are so little known in this country, that to descant, or particularly dwell, on their uses and general effects, might by some be construed into enthusiasm ; and thus afford a convenient cause for the illiberal to decry it.

Facts and time prove the truth or falsehood of all assertions. Only seven or eight years have elapsed since fumigations were first used with much advantage ; and this period has served to present to the world numerous facts, declarative of the beneficial effects of this new method ; and, as its powers become more

developed, conviction of the greatness of its value and high rank as a remedy, will be impressed on the minds of all persons who are engaged in the management, or interested in the result.

(To be continued.)

THE INFLUENCE OF CIVIC LIFE, &c.
THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF FOOD.

Concluded from p. 381.

Balance of Enjoyment in Food.—Walking one evening in the vicinity of Grosvenor Square, I came opposite to an area, from whence issued the most profuse and savory odors of everything which could at once stimulate and gratify the human palate. An immense dinner was passing from the kitchen to the banqueting room; and leaning over the iron railings was a halfstarved and half-naked wretch, apparently inhaling the rich steam from below, and soliciting charity from the passenger at the same time. A tall and benevolent looking gentleman stopped at this moment, and seemed to contemplate the scene. Putting a small piece of money into the beggar's hand, he lifted up his eyes to Heaven, and ejaculated in a low voice—“O how unequally are the gifts and enjoyments of Nature distributed in this world!” I could not undeceive this gentleman at the time; but should these pages ever meet his eye, he will probably acknowledge that he took but a partial view of the affair.

Whatever support the doctrine of a future state of rewards and punishments may derive from the triumph of vice and the oppression of virtue here, the belief in a future state of existence neither requires nor derives support from the *apparent* inequality among mankind, in respect to happiness or enjoyment. Though I shall not attempt to prove that all ranks are precisely on a par on this point,

yet I do maintain that they are very nearly so; and that Nature, indulgent but *just* to all her children, preserves, by an admirable code of laws, the most surprising equilibrium in the balance of enjoyment of her gifts. A slight sketch of the extremes will enable every man of reflection and observation to fill up the outline.

The epicure sits down at seven or eight o'clock in the evening to a sumptuous repast; but under every cover lies some source of derangement to the digestive organs, which more than counterbalances the voluptuous sensations of the palate. The halfstarved beggar, on the other hand, has little more than the disagreeable cravings of hunger to contend with—cravings which produce but few, and ward off numerous diseases. True it is, that he may envy the rich man's lot, and be discontented with his own; but the rich man has little cause for exultation here; for independently of the train of afflictions that result from luxury, the *latter* itself “fades on the appetite,” and, after a short time, either ceases to afford pleasure, or destroys the capacity of enjoying it!

From these two extremes the shades blend imperceptibly, till they unite and form a picture of that *comparatively* happy medium of rational and philosophical temperance in food, which, while it rejects not the bounties and delicacies of nature, keeps a steady check on the licentious appetite, and suffers not the digestive organs to be goaded to unnatural exertions by the compound qualities and redundant quantities of the necessities of life.

ON THE PERIODS BEST ADAPTED FOR MEALS, AND ON THE INTERVALS WHICH SHOULD ELAPSE BETWEEN EACH.

It is not extraordinary that a discrepancy of opinion should exist on a question which involves so many fluctuating circumstances. Controversy on this, as on many other subjects of diet, has engendered a dis-

lief in its importance ; and this scepticism has given a plausible pretext for indulgence on the one hand, and protracted fasting on the other, as the wishes or habits of mankind may have rendered these most agreeable. It will therefore be difficult to convince the public of the necessity of those regulations which are so essential for the maintenance of health or for the cure of disease. We have been told that the best time for dining is, "for a rich man, when he can get an appetite, and for a poor one, when he can get food." But appetite in health is regulated by habit, and in disease it acts but as an imperfect monitor. Certain general principles, therefore, deduced from observation and experience, must be laid down for our guidance ; and these again in their application must be modified and adapted to the circumstances of every particular case.

All physicians concur in advocating the importance of regularity, both as it regards the number of meals and the periods at which they are taken. Those who have weak stomachs will, by such a system, not only digest more food, but will be less liable to those affections which arise from its imperfect assimilation, because, as Dr. Darwin has justly observed, they have, in such a case, both the stimulus of the aliment they take, and the periodical habit, to assist the process. The periods of hunger and thirst are undoubtedly catenated with certain portions of time, or degrees of exhaustion, or other diurnal habits of life ; and if the pain of hunger be not relieved by taking food at the usual time, it is liable to cease till the next period of time, or other habits recur. As these periods must vary in every individual, according to the powers of digestion, the degree of exercise taken, and the quality of the food, it frequently becomes necessary, in civilized life, to have recourse to intermediate meals, or *luncheons*, in order to support the powers of the sto-

mach during the long interval which may occur between the conventional periods of repast. But to the dyspeptic patient, in search of health, such indulgences are rarely to be permitted ; unless, indeed, the circumstances under which he is placed leave him no option between long fasting and supplementary refection. I am more anxious to impress this precept on the minds of invalids, as the anxiety of friends, and the popular errors which exist on the subject of diet, are too apt to establish the mischievous belief, that "*a little and often*" will be more likely to restore the languid stomach to its healthy tone than moderate meals at more protracted intervals. The specious aphorism of Dr. Temple, that "the stomach of an invalid is like a schoolboy, always at mischief unless it be employed," has occasioned more dyspeptic disease than that respectable physician could ever have cured, had his practice been as successful as that of Esculapius, and his life as long as that of an antediluvian. The theory on which this objection rests has already been explained. The natural process of digestion is thus disturbed, and the healthy action of the stomach, as evinced by the return of moderate appetite, is entirely prevented. In answer to this question, the patient will sometimes tell you, that frequent refreshment is essential to his comfort ; that a sensation of faintness obliges him to fly to such a resource, in order to rescue himself from the distress which it contains. This, in general, is an artificial want, created by habit, and must be cured by restoring the patient to regular meals, which is to be effected by gradually lengthening the intervals of eating. But, since no general rule is without its exceptions, so it may be observed, that there are cases of disease, in which the stomach is unable to bear any considerable quantity of aliment at one time, whence it becomes necessary to repeat it at short intervals, in order to afford a

sufficient proportion of nutriment; but as the patient acquires strength, such a system should be gradually abandoned.

But, though the advantage of regular meals at stated periods is desirable, it has been much disputed how many should be allowed in the day: some physicians have considered one, others two, three, or even five necessary. It is, perhaps, impossible to lay down a general rule that shall apply to every particular case. In some persons, the food rarely remains longer than three hours in the stomach; in others four, five, or even six hours. It is evident, that the repetition of the meals ought to be regulated by this circumstance, always avoiding the extremes of long fasting and repletion. Some nations have been satisfied with one meal a day; but the stomach would thus be oppressed with too large a quantity, and in the interval would suffer from the want of some nourishment in it. Such a plan, therefore, is neither calculated for persons of robust health, and who are engaged in much bodily exertion, and consequently require large supplies, nor for those of a weak habit, who are not able either to *take* or *digest* such a quantity of aliment in a single meal as will be sufficient to supply the waste of the body during the twentyfour hours. Celsus recommends the healthy to take food rather twice in the day than once; and Sanctorius says, that "the body becomes more heavy and uneasy after six pounds taken at one meal, than after eight taken at three; and that he who makes but one meal in the day, let him eat much or little, is pursuing a system that must ultimately injure him." In my opinion, an invalid may safely take three frugal meals; or, on some occasions, even four, provided a certain quantity of exercise be insisted on. It is reported, that when Alexander the Great turned away his cooks, on proceeding on a march, he observed that he had no

further occasion for such assistants, as he carried with him superior cooks;—a long morning's journey to create an appetite for his dinner, and a frugal dinner to give a relish to his supper.

I shall now consider the nature of the different meals, and the periods at which they can be taken with the greatest advantage; repeating, however, that all general rules must be modified in their application according to particular circumstances.

BREAKFAST. This is, perhaps, the most natural, and not the least important of our meals; for, since many hours must have intervened since the last meal, the stomach ought to be in a condition to receive a fresh supply of aliment. As the food in the body has, during the night, been digested, we might presume, that a person in the morning ought to feel an appetite on rising. This, however, is not always the fact; the gastric juice does not appear to be secreted in any quantity during sleep, while the muscular energies of the stomach, though invigorated by repose, are not immediately called into action: it is therefore advisable to allow an interval to pass before we commence the meal of breakfast. We seem to depart more from the custom of our hardy ancestors, with regard to breakfast, than any other meal. A maid of honor in the court of Elizabeth breakfasted on beef, and drank ale after it; while the sportsman, and even the day laborer of the present day frequently breakfast on tea. The periods of their meals, however, were so generally different from those of modern times, that we cannot establish any useful comparison between them, without taking into consideration the collateral circumstances which must have influenced their operation. The solidity of our breakfast should be regulated by the labor and exercise to be taken, and to the time of dining. Where the dinner hour is late, we should recommend a more

nutritious meal, in order to supersede the necessity of a *luncheon*, or what the French call *un déjeuner à la fourchette*. At the same time it must be remembered, that dyspeptic invalids are frequently incommoded by such a repast, if it be copious. Heartburn is a common effect of a heavy breakfast, especially if it be accompanied with much diluting liquid; and a question has consequently arisen as to the propriety of taking much fluid on these occasions. Some have recommended a *dry breakfast*, as peculiarly wholesome; and we have been told, that the celebrated Marcus Antoninus made a rule to eat a hard biscuit the moment he got up. I think it will not be difficult to show the reasons why liquids are essentially necessary at this meal. To say nothing of the instinctive desire which we all feel for them, it is evident that there is a certain acrimony and rankness in all our secretions at this time; the breath has frequently a peculiar taint in the morning, which is not perceptible at subsequent periods of the day. This may be explained by the loss which the fluids of the body have sustained by perspiration, as well as by the quality of newly elaborated matter introduced into the circulation during sleep. The experiments of Sanctorius have fully demonstrated the superior power of sleep in promoting the perspiration; insomuch, that a person sleeping healthfully, and without any unnatural means to promote it, will, in a given space of time, perspire insensibly twice as much as when awake. This fact is sufficient to prove the necessity of a liquid breakfast. Every physician, in the course of his practice, must have been consulted on the propriety of taking meat, tea, or coffee, at breakfast. I shall, therefore, offer to the profession the results of my experience on this subject; and I am encouraged in this duty by a conviction of the advantages which have arisen from my views of the ques-

tion. A person who has not strong powers of digestion, is frequently distressed by the usual association of tea with bread and butter, or, what is more injurious, with hot buttered toast, or muffin; the oily part of which is separated by the heat of the liquid, and remains in the stomach, producing, on its upper orifice, an irritation which produces the sensation of heartburn. On such occasions I always recommend dry toast, without any addition. New bread, or spongy rolls, should be carefully avoided. Tea, to many persons, is a beverage which contains too little nutriment: I have therefore found barleywater, or a thin gruel, a very useful substitute. A gentleman some time since applied to me, in consequence of an acidity which constantly tormented him during the interval between breakfast and dinner, but at no other period of the day: he had tried the effects of milk, tea, coffee, and cocoa, but uniformly without success. I advised him to eat toasted bread, with a slice of the lean part of cold mutton, and to drink a large cup of warm barley-water, for the purpose of dilution. Since the adoption of this plan he has entirely lost his complaint, and continues to enjoy his morning diversions without molestation. Hard eggs, though they require a long period for their digestion, are not generally offensive to the stomach; they may therefore be taken with propriety, whenever, from necessity or choice, the dinner is appointed at a late season.

DINNER. Among the Romans this was rather considered as a refreshment to prevent faintness, than as a meal to convey nourishment. It consisted principally of some light repast, without animal food or wine; but in modern times it is considered the principal meal, at which every species of luxurious gratification is indulged in. With regard to the proper period at which invalids should dine, physicians entertain but

one opinion; it should be in the middle of the day, or at about two or three o'clock. Sir A. Carlisle has justly observed, that it is thus best adapted to the decline of animal vigor, because it affords a timely replenishment before the evening wanting of the vital powers, and which naturally precedes the hour of rest; besides which, the custom tends to prevent intemperance; while late hours, and a consequent state of exhaustion demand, or seem to justify an excessive indulgence in strong drinks, and in variety of food. The exact period, however, of dinner, must be directed by the physician with reference to the necessary habits of his patient, the nature and time of his breakfast, and, above all, to the rapidity or slowness of his digestion. I will illustrate the importance of this precept by the relation of a case which lately fell under my immediate notice and care. A gentleman, resident in a distant part of the country, applied for my advice under the following circumstances. His health was generally good, but he had lost all appetite for his dinner, and constantly experienced a sensation of weight and uneasiness after this meal: I prescribed some laxative and bitter medicines, and after a fortnight had elapsed I again saw him. He then told me that he had not experienced the sensations of which he had complained for some time; but that the circumstance afforded him but little encouragement, as he had uniformly found the same beneficial change whenever he resided in London, which he was at a loss to explain, as he took the same exercise in the country. I then inquired whether the hour at which he dined was the same in both situations? when it appeared, that in the country he dined at three, and in London at about six. I immediately suspected the origin of the complaint, and fortunately touched the spring which unfolded the whole secret: his digestion was remarkably slow,

and the dinner in the country was served up before the breakfast had been duly digested. By my advice this evil was remedied: and he has never since had any reason to complain of want of appetite, or of the weight and oppression which had so long distressed him.

TEA. I have already stated my reasons for considering this repast as salutary; and where it is practicable, exercise should follow it.

SUPPER. In the time of Elizabeth, the nobility and gentry were accustomed to dine at eleven, to sup between five and six, and to go to bed at ten. It is therefore evident, that any argument, in favor of this meal, founded on the healthy condition of our ancestors, must be fallacious. By supper, in modern times, we understand a late meal just before bedtime. But as sleep is not favorable to every stage of digestion, it is very questionable whether retiring to rest with a full stomach can, under any circumstances, be salutary. During the first part of the process, or that of chymification, a person so situated may perhaps sleep quietly, unless indeed the morbid distension of the stomach should impede respiration, and occasion distress; but when the food has passed out of the stomach, and the processes of chylification and sanguification have been established, the natural propensity of the body is for activity, and the invalid awakes at this period, and remains in a feverish state for some hours. On this general principle, then, suppers are to be avoided; that is to say, *hearty* suppers, which require the active powers of the stomach for their digestion. The same objection cannot be urged against a light repast, which is generally useful to dyspeptics; and it has been truly and facetiously observed that "some invalids need not put on their nightcaps, if they do not first bribe their stomachs to good behavior." An egg lightly boiled, or a piece of dry toast, with a small quantity of white wine negus, will

often secure a tranquil night, which would otherwise be passed with restlessness. Among the intellectual part of the community, there has ever existed a strong predilection in favor of suppers; the labor of the day has been performed; the hour is sacred to conviviality, and the period is one which is not likely to be interrupted by the call of business. To those in health, such indulgences may be occasionally allowed; but the physician should be cautious how he gives his sanction to their wholesomeness. The hilarity* which is felt at this period of the day must not be received as a signal for repairing to the banquet, but, as an indication of the sanguification of the previous meal.

DR. COATES ON THE GANGRENOUS ULCERS
OF THE MOUTHS OF CHILDREN.

This disease commences in the gums, near the necks of the teeth, and sides of the cheek, with a slight ulceration and loss of substance, attended by an air of general languor and weakness, without pain or, in general, fever. When the ulceration extends, the tooth becomes loose, gangrene takes place, the sloughs separate, and fever appears, particularly when the disease reaches the gums or lips, and when they attack the cellular membrane, it becomes phlegmonous with thickening and tumor around it. The disease is, no doubt, produced by general debility; the soft parts about the mouth being the weakest in the system. Touching the ulcers with a strong solution of the sulphate of copper, cured the disease, with an early extraction of the teeth, as advised by Drs. Fox and Pearson; the solution is applied carefully twice a day to the ulcerations. Mr. Pearson advised, in the same disease, diluted mineral acids, burnt alum, decoction of bark,

white vitriol, tincture of myrrh, &c. The preparations of copper, though they succeeded with Dr. Coates, are by some said to be pernicious. The sulphate of zinc, in strong solution, succeeded with Dr. Parrish. In different seasons and cases, no doubt different preparations will succeed, as is the case with all other ulcers. Muriatic, nitric, and sulphuric acids failed; constitutional means were of no use in this malady, in Dr. Coates's experience. In the practice of M. Marjolin, the actual cautery applied to the ulcers, also caustic, potash, and muriate of soda, destroyed the fetor, and removed the disease.

AN EPITAPH IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

ISAAC BARROW, D. D.
Chaplain to King CHARLES the Second,
A Man of an immense Genius!
And truly Great, if there be any
Greatness in
Devotion, Probity, and Veracity;
In an unlimited Compass of Learning,
With a Modesty equal to it;
In an uniform Piety,
And a sincere Sweetness of Manners.
He so worthily filled the Chairs of
Professor of Geometry in Gresham College,
And of Greek and Mathematics
At Cambridge,
The place of his Education,
And every other Station of Life,
That he was an Ornament to the Church
and Nation.
When Master of Trinity College,
He founded a Library,
Which might become the Munificence of
a Prince:
He did not so much despise Riches,
Honors,
And the other Pursuits of Life,
But, being born for higher Ends,
He left these to the lowthoughted World.
His Life from his Childhood
Was a constant Imitation of the Divine
Being.
He contracted his own wants,
That his Liberality might be the more
diffusive!
And Posterity continue to be instructed
By his excellent Writings;
Which give a more adequate Idea
Of his eminent Endowments.
Go, Reader, and imitate!
He died May 4, A. D. 1677. Aged 47.
This Monument was erected by his
Friends.

* BREAKFAST has been considered the meal of friendship; DINNER that of etiquette; and SUPPER the feast of wit.

VOCAL POETRY.

Dear Colin, prevent my warm blushes,
Since how can I speak without pain?
My eyes have oft told you my wishes,
O! can't you their meaning explain?

My passion would lose by expression,
And you too might cruelly blame;
Then don't you expect a confession
Of what is too tender to name.

Since yours is the province of speaking,
Why should you expect it from me?
Our wishes should be in our keeping,
Till you tell us what they should be.

Then quickly why don't you discover?
Did your heart feel such tortures as mine,
Eyes need not tell over and over
What I in my bosom confine.

THE ANSWER.

Good Madam, when ladies are willing,
A man must needs look like a fool;
For me, I would not give a shilling
For one that can love without rule.

At least you should wait for our offers,
Nor snatch like old maids in despair;
If you've liv'd to these years without
proffers,
Your sighs are now lost in the air.

You should leave us to guess at your
blushing,
And not speak the matter too plain;
'Tis ours to be forward and pushing;
'Tis yours to affect a disdain.

That you're in a terrible taking,
From all your fond oglings I see;
But the fruit that will fall without shaking
Indeed is too mellow for me.*

LADY M. W. MONTAGU.

EPIGRAM.

Pray, is it owing to the weather
That U and I can't dine together?
Why no, the reason is, d'ye see,
U cannot come till after T.

* In Dodsley's Collection of Poems this piece was assigned to Sir W. Young, and the preceding to Lady M. W. Montagu. Of this misstatement the lady heavily complains in a letter to her daughter, the Countess of Bute, in which she says that the first piece being handed about as the supposed address of Lady Hertford to Lord W. Hamilton, she herself wrote the second extempore as a reply to it.

J. AIKEN.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, JAN. 23, 1827.

REMARKS ON DRESS.

Our dress may be considered, first, in relation to health; secondly, in regard to its moral or immoral influence; and thirdly, in reference to its suitableness to the property and situation of individuals in society.

The first and most obvious purpose of clothing, in most climates, certainly in ours, is the prevention of sickness, and the preservation of health. It should of course be warm or cool, light or substantial, that we may be duly protected from cold in winter, and as little encumbered as possible in summer, with weight or heat. Every degree of pressure and compression should at all times be avoided as directly and certainly pernicious. Compression, when the muscles have been in action, has sometimes proved suddenly fatal. No one, especially children, while warmed by artificial heat, should ever be permitted to wear an outer garment made of any combustible material. And the less any part of the entire clothing is inflammable, the greater is the security against burns and their consequences.

In the second place, we may, through the medium of dress, carry about with us, a moral or an immoral influence. Whatever in dress tends to excite any idea of physical or moral impurity, is at once offensive and criminal. Our example may encourage extravagance, pride, and superciliousness, or it may be made to promote neatness, simplicity, economy and decency.

In the third point of view, our dress may be mean and sordid, arising from avarice or a disregard for personal neatness ; or it may be prodigal of that wealth which every wise man will prefer to apply to some more commendable use. It may be above or below what is suitable and becoming a man of property, and one who has the means and opportunity of being respected and exemplary in the community.

The great obstacle to a rational style of dress in all these respects, is *fashion*, a severe arbitress, who will not permit any division of empire, and to whom the many seem willing to bow in proportion to the extravagance and capriciousness of her demands. How few individuals in any hundred persons are in the habit of consulting their own resources, taste, wants and comforts, in selecting the materials, number and form of their garments ! And yet, when once in an age, a man or woman has acted for himself and combined economy, good taste, simplicity and ease in a dress, beholders, yielding to the first impulse, cannot help admiring, and exclaiming how charming, neat and comfortable this is ! where did it come from ? But on reflection, and finding it of domestic origin and supported by one name only, they want courage to adopt, what they cannot but approve.

How many charming little evenings have been lost, and passed at home sullen and in illnatured silence, merely because a woman has not possessed sufficient means and energy to walk half a dozen rods over a wet path or pavement, or through

two inches of snow ? How many intended missions of charity and kind offices have failed, where the heart has been willing, but the mind and body have been too frail and resourceless to furnish this small ability to carry them into effect ? The tender female may be in torture from painful sympathy on account of a suffering and neglected friend, but cannot find a boot, a shoe, or a coat, in the whole household establishment, with which she can trust herself in a drizzling day, to pass a short distance to her relief.

Now this physical and mental frailty is not natural ; it is false and artificial, arising from bad education, a misjudging age, and a false estimate of character, duty and happiness. Every female, born with a common share of corporeal and mental capacity, should be made an efficient being. As her mind is unfolded, her tender, benevolent and good affections and principles should be brought into action, disciplined and strengthened ; and while this education is going on, her material system should be so trained and confirmed as cheerfully to execute the best aspirations of the heart, as sanctioned and approved by the dictates of the judgment.

After every salutary purpose of dress is secured, there is still sufficient room for the exercise of good taste. Colors may be adapted to complexion ; forms to shape and size ; and richness to the pecuniary ability of the wearer. The whole character and expression of the entire wardrobe should be conformable to the age, rank, circumstances,

and condition of the individual. The principles of reason, expediency and good taste, may very properly be modified by the prevailing fashion, but should never be subjected to her extravagance, follies and dangers.

INTOXICATION.

The following article is from the New York Literary Gazette.

A simple remedy has been discovered, which effectually cures habitual drunkards and tipplers, and renders them totally averse to spirituous potations in any shape. A considerable number, who have derived lasting benefit from the medicine offered, stand ready to corroborate, with the most conclusive testimony, what is here publicly averred, with regard to the efficacy of the remedy. Their names will hereafter be deposited with the editor, to whom, in due season, reference will be made, leaving to his delicacy and discretion to communicate them to those who may apply for information, or to state the facts concerning their former habits. This remedy will be administered gratis to those who are in indigent circumstances.

All orders, postpaid, will be promptly attended to, by addressing the application to Dr. Chambers, Agent, at the Medical Store, at the corner of Broadway and Broome Street, New York, where the medicine is sold.

Jan. 13.

A person has just called at our office and informed us that he is one of the number who have been thoroughly and radically cured by Dr. Chambers. He had lived for years in habits of intemperance. Dr. C. will make a fortune by this discovery, and he deserves it.

A GOOD WIFE.

There are three things which a good wife should resemble, and yet these three things she should not resemble. She should be like a

town clock—keep time and regularity. She should not be like a town clock, speak so loud that all the town may hear her. She should be like a snail—prudent, and keep within her own house. She should not be like a snail, carry all she has on her back. She should be like an echo—speak when spoken to. She should not be like an echo, determined always to have the last word.

Dr. Baron, of Gloucester, England, is about to publish the life of Dr. Jenner, the discoverer of Vaccination as a preventive of the Smallpox.

A machine is in operation, in the western part of New York, called a Patent Salt Evaporator, by which it is said, 150 bushels may be manufactured per day. The plan is said to be entirely new.

A Life Preserver for Carriages has been invented in London. It is said in the Courier that it will stop the most infuriated horse, and prevent the injury to life and limb too often attendant on running away.

THE RETORT.

As two men of Oxford were walking together,
With their mouths full of jokes, and their hearts light as feather,
A paper by chance on a window was set,
And inscrib'd thereupon, "this house to be let."
They rapp'd at the door, and out came the maid:
Are you to be let with the house, pray? cried one,
No, sir, she replied, *I'm to be let alone.*

FROM METASTASIO.

If ev'ry man's internal care
Were written on his brow,
How many would our pity share,
Who raise our envy now!

The fatal secret, when reveal'd,
Of every aching breast,
Would prove that only while conceal'd
Their lot appear'd the best.

EPITAPH ON MR. STRANGE, A LAWYER.
Here lies an honest lawyer, and that's Strange.

Dr Schneider, of Fulda, makes use of the croton oil externally, as a purgative. This mode of exhibition is very suitable to the cases of children who will not take medicine. He mixes four drops of croton oil with one ounce of oil of walnut; a part of this mixture is rubbed four times daily on the abdomen, especially over the region of the stomach. Every time after the use of this mixture, some evacuations would follow, and often also the evacuation of worms.

In the Journal of Hufeland it is stated that the first who introduced the inoculation of the smallpox into Europe, was Immanuel Timonis, a Greek physician of Constantinople. He communicated this art, in the year 1713, to the universities of Oxford and Padua, of which he was elected a member.

When no Dictionary appears, the reader is desired to suppose that it is because there is nothing to make one of.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

THE Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College, will commence on Tuesday, the 20th day of February, 1827.

Theory and Practice of Physic by DANIEL OLIVER, M. D. Professor of the same department at Hanover, N. H.

Anatomy and Surgery by J. D. WELLS, M. D.

Midwifery by J. M'KEAN, M. D.

Chemistry and Materia Medica by P. CLEAVELAND, M. D.

The *Anatomical Cabinet* is very valuable and extensive.

The *Library* is one of the best Medical Libraries in New England; and is every year enriched by new works, both foreign and domestic.

Every person becoming a member of this Institution, is required to present satisfactory evidence, that he possesses a good moral character.

Citizens of Maine in indigent circumstances may have *surgical operations* performed, free of expense, if brought into the vicinity of the College during the Course.—As a reduction in the price of boarding is an object of importance to many, arrangements have been made, which, it is hoped, may effect this object to a considerable extent.

Brunswick, September 26, 1826.

BREWER & BROTHERS.

THE Copartnership heretofore existing under the firm of BARTLETT & BREWER, Druggists, was dissolved on the 31st ult.

SAMUEL N. BREWER, the junior partner, having succeeded to the business, has associated himself with his brothers, NATHANIEL BREWER, M.D.—and WILLIAM A. BREWER, who has been six years in the store. They will continue the business of Druggists and Apothecaries, at the old stand, Sign of the Good Samaritan, No. 92, Wahington Street, under the firm of SAMUEL N. BREWER & BROTHERS, and promising every possible attention to their business, respectfully solicit patronage.

SAMUEL N. BREWER,
NATHANIEL BREWER,
WILLIAM A. BREWER.

Boston, January 1, 1827.

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber informs the Public that he has recently enlarged his accommodations for Insane Persons, and feels confident that he can now render suitable attention to all classes and characters of this description. He has devoted for ten yeas past, much of his time and study to this part of medical science,—and his past success induces him to continue his attention to this branch of medical practice.

The beauty of the natural scenery of this place, the salubrity of the atmosphere and the purity of the water, are equal to any in the State.—Thus the place is very favorable to all kinds of exercise, which is a very important aid in the treatment of diseases affecting the mind.

He will, as formerly, accommodate and attend to the wants and calls of other patients, and to surgical operations.

NEHEMIAH CUTTER, M. D.
Pepperell, Ms. Jan. 8, 1827.

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THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1827.

NO. 37.

As a number of persons have mistaken the intention of this paper, it has been thought proper to say that its chief object is to promote Health, by pointing out the more common and prevalent causes of disease, and the means of avoiding or of counteracting them. Health may also be promoted by invigorating and confirming the feeble and valetudinary, and thus rendering them superior to the influence of atmospheric changes and other sources of physical derangement, by which, though harmless to the robust, the tender and susceptible are always in danger of falling into sickness. It is intended to be intelligible to all classes of readers, that it may be made conducive to the improvement and preservation of all.

The Medical Intelligencer in its present size, with its present editor, views and objects, takes its origin from the No. published on the 3d of October last. It is now adapted and intended for the public generally, as well as for the medical profession. The present volume began May 23, 1826.

AN INTRODUCTORY LECTURE,
ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF
MEDICINE,

Delivered by DR. AYRE, London.

I now appear before you to commence a Course of Lec-

tures on the Principles and Practice of Medicine; or, in other words, to instruct you in the knowledge of disease, and of the means for its removal, prevention, and alleviation. Before, however, proceeding to the proper business of the course, it will be well to devote this preliminary lecture to the inquiry, as to what constitutes a knowledge of disease, and what are the causes which have so long retarded its advancement, and what the means for promoting it. Lord Bacon's remark, "knowledge is power," is a truth of universal application, and is, therefore, as true in relation to the treatment of disease, as to the exercise of political rule, to which his observation was directed. Seeing, therefore, that knowledge is power, it is of importance to know what constitutes this knowledge, and what are the means of attaining it; for mankind, during every period of their history, have erred in their notions concerning the nature of true knowledge, and have been misled by names, and by the authority which imposed

them; and have been prone to believe, that by knowing the name of an object, they thereby possessed a knowledge of the nature of it; and this error has peculiarly prevailed in medicine, and men have given names to diseases from some fanciful notion formed of them, and which, by being secured as the true representatives of the things they denoted, have been adopted by succeeding generations as a rule for their reasonings and their practice.

Now there are, in regard to most objects, two sorts of knowledge, and which differ not only in degree, but in *kind*. Our knowledge of a natural object, as for instance of a piece of granite, may be limited to its sensible appearances or qualities, as its hardness, color, &c.; or it may extend to its constituent parts or principles. The first kind of knowledge, or that of its sensible qualities, may be obtained by the most careless observer; and if any difference exists in regard to this kind of knowledge, it will be only in degree. Thus of a natural body, as of the granite; the laborer at the quarry will have, perhaps, a somewhat more correct knowledge of its sensible qualities than the man who breaks it in our streets; whilst the knowledge of this last will exceed, perhaps, the passengers who casually wit-

ness his doing it. The knowledge, however, of all these persons is the same, the difference being only in degree. There is, therefore, another kind of knowledge, differing essentially from that just alluded to. This pertains to its constituent parts, or principles, and which it is the province of the chemical philosopher to acquire; for by the skill exercised by him in analyzing bodies, he shows that resemblances exist between many substances, which, judging by their external appearance, are in no way alike; and, by the same method, he detects discrepancies in others that had previously been thought to be the same. Now the knowledge we possess of disease may differ in the same way; that is to say, not only in degree, but in *kind*. We may know a disease by its external signs or symptoms, as a natural body is known by its sensible qualities, and yet be utterly unacquainted with its true nature. Thus, few persons who have read a description of the symptoms of hydrophobia, as exhibited in the human subject, and none who have once seen it, could fail to recognize it when presented to them; yet our knowledge of the disease amounts to nothing, and is, in regard to its true nature, no more than what the laborer possesses with respect

to the granite, since in both it relates only to their sensible appearances. There is, therefore, a second species of knowledge of disease, and which, like the knowledge possessed by the chemist, has respect to the relation the symptoms bear to each other, and to their common cause, and to the pathological conditions on which they depend. The first sort of knowledge, or that concerning the sensible appearances of disease, is what the uninstructed attendants on the sick, whether unskilful doctors or nurses, have at all times possessed ; and the knowledge, whether it be with doctors or nurses, is intrinsically the same, the difference being only in degree. They are but laborers in a quarry, when compared with the enlightened pathologist, whose knowledge of disease is of the true kind, and whose office it is, like that of the chemist in his laboratory, to investigate the causes which produce and modify diseases, and those conditions of the body to which they give, and from which they derive, their origin.

Seeing, therefore, that there are two kinds of knowledge, and which differ essentially from each other, we may now inquire as to what are the methods by which the true and more important

branch of knowledge of disease can be obtained. To satisfy this inquiry, let us imagine the existence of an island in some distant part of the world, and unknown to the rest of it, and whose inhabitants were conversant with most of our arts and sciences, and where scientific men employed the inductive method of research first taught us by Lord Byron. Let us imagine, no matter how, that some chronometers, with which they were before unacquainted, came into their possession, and that one of them becoming deranged in its state of going, was given to their ablest artists for repair ; what, I will ask, would be the plan they would adopt ? Would they limit their examination to the dialplate and pendulum ? or, because the movement of the pointers was the final cause of its construction, would they seek only in these for the cause of its imperfect action, and apply there alone the remedy ? Would they not rather examine a perfect timepiece of the same kind, by which they might make themselves acquainted with its several parts, and their relations to each other, and the principle on which they moved in concert, and be thus enabled to detect and remove the causes which impaired the action of the perfect one. But let us fur-

ther suppose that these enlightened islanders became suddenly assailed with the several diseases known to Europeans, and from which they before had been exempt, and that the scientific men among them were required to apply their minds to the discovery of a mode of removing them. What, I may again ask, would be the plan they would pursue? Would they, in imitation of those ancients whom a misplaced and indiscriminate regard for antiquity has led us to reverence as our masters, commence their task by forming a nomenclature of the diseases from some hypothetical notions regarding their seat or origin? and determine the nature of their proximate causes from some loose analogies derived from chemical or mechanical phenomena, or from other spurious sources, and in utter ignorance of the structure of the parts concerned in the disease, or of the morbid changes induced in them by it? endeavoring, at the same time, in imitation of more modern improvers of our art, to settle immediately, in a nosological arrangement, the notions thus vaguely acquired of the nature of these diseases? Assuredly they would not: on the contrary they would, like the mechanic repairing the chronometer, begin their task by examining the internal structure

of the human body in its sound state. They would examine, with the minutest scrutiny, the various organs, and the tissues of which they are composed, and their relative situation and dependencies; and in short, and without detaining you with a detail of the several objects of it, they would study anatomy. Having thus acquired a knowledge of the *structure* of the human body, they would next proceed to investigate the uses of the several organs, and the parts connected with and composing them. They would analyze the blood, and determine the mode and purposes of its circulation. They would analyze the several secretions and excretions in their morbid and healthy states, and examine into the particular circumstances under which, and by which, they were altered in their quantity and quality; they, in fact, would study physiology; and next, in pursuance of their plan of investigating the causes and seat of disease, they would proceed to ascertain, by morbid dissections, the nature of the morbid changes produced in the solids by disease, comparing them with the symptoms and with the causes producing these, as diligently noted in the course of it; and thus determining the true relation of the symptoms with each other and with their common cause, as well as

the effects produced on them by the treatment. From the observations thus made and repeatedly confirmed, certain general rules of practice would be deduced, which would be denominated the Principles of Physic; and a just pathology of diseases being thus acquired, a nosological arrangement of them would be made, and as perfect a system of practice established, as the mortal destiny of their nature would admit.

Thus then would men proceed who understood the inductive mode of research taught by Lord Bacon, and who, from being unbiassed by those prejudices which are perpetually intercepting our views of truth, would have less to learn from having nothing to unlearn. And is this the mode which the ancients pursued, and did they possess that true and efficient knowledge of disease to which I have alluded? Certainly not. They possessed little more than the first kind, in that which is limited to the sensible appearances or symptoms of a disease; for the philosophy of the ancients proved itself unsuited for scientific research; and it was not till the time of Lord Bacon that the method became known, and not till long after this period that it was adopted by the teachers of our art. But the ancients

are not chargeable merely with neglecting the right mode of proceeding in their investigations; for they were guilty of the injurious practice of giving names to diseases which involved some false hypotheses regarding their nature, and of sanctioning at once, the names and the hypotheses by the systematic arrangements of disease which they founded on them. First, it must be obvious that a name which gives an erroneous notion of the object it represents, must give an injurious bias to the mind, in favor of that notion; and that, as a systematic arrangement of diseases should be formed on a knowledge of their nature, every arrangement of them, before such knowledge is attained, must be injurious, being wrong, in at least as great proportion as it would have been beneficial if right. And yet the history of physic is but a humiliating record of such attempts, and of the evils which sprung from them, by withholding men's minds from the true path of investigation, and accustoming them to regard the systems thus imposingly formed, as legitimate deductions from facts. In this way the authority of Galen enchain'd the minds of men for nearly fifteen centuries, when they were released by Paracelsus, and afterwards from him by others, to contin-

ue in a bondage little inferior to that which they had left. The error with all was, that of creating systems of medicine unsustained by the facts which anatomy and physiology, and morbid dissections, should have afforded, and arranging diseases according to their crude fancies; and thus, of giving "a local habitation and a name" to existences purely ideal. It would be a task, neither of profit nor amusement, to enumerate to you the various theories which have been given to the world by their successive authers, from the days of Hippocrates to a period near to our own times. Many of them are too absurd to merit a serious notice, and they all have the radical defect of being, not only not supported by facts, but opposed to them. But let me not be unjust to the ancients. If, as it must be admitted, they did but little for our art, the wonder is, still, with the scanty means they used, that they did so much; and for their errors, there are reasons of extenuation not due to the modern inventors of theories. To their success there were opposed the prejudices against dissection, derived from their religion, and unknown to modern times. They wanted the aid of the collateral arts and sciences, and of the printingpress

and paper, both of such transcendent importance for the wide diffusion of facts, by which alone science can be advanced. With the ancients, then, the error was in erecting systems of physic, without seeking for facts to uphold them. With the moderns, possessing as they did, such ample means for detecting their fallacy, in following them so long and so blindly, or in substituting systems of their own, equally remote from truth. Nor are we, at the present day, free from the charge of yielding to that bias, which names, and systems of medicine, and nosological arrangements in past times produced on us. There is still lingering in our seats of learning an undue attachment, to speak in the mildest way of it, for opinions and modes of practice, which a pathology much less enlightened than ours should before this time have exploded. We have still a nosological arrangement of diseases, which is appealed to as an authority, and as the rule for our reasoning and practice; though it is, and must be, essentially defective as such. For in a nosological arrangement of diseases, it is necessarily assumed that the nature of the diseases thus arranged is understood; and that the arrangement is made in accordance with this know-

ledge, and that our acquaintance with diseases may be thereby facilitated. But the nature of many of the diseases thus arranged, is confessedly unknown; and the views concerning a multitude of others, and on which their arrangement is founded, is erroneous; and if, therefore, the arrangement be formed, and to be of any service, it must be so, as our authority and guide in judging of, and treating diseases, then this and all other settled arrangements of them, made before a true knowledge of them is obtained, must be as injurious in practice, as they are unscientific. We all know how in chemistry the attempts at arranging the objects of this art and of forming a nomenclature of them, required successive renewals, from successive discoveries concerning the nature of these objects; and that therefore repeated changes were made in their names, in correspondence with the improved knowledge respecting them. It must, therefore, happen, that evils, both theoretical and practical, must arise from an adherence to names, and to artificial arrangements of diseases, under an imperfect knowledge of their nature. But let me not here be misunderstood. I object not to nosological arrangements in the abstract. I object only to the premature

formation of them; and to their thus preceding, instead of following, the discovery of a true pathology of diseases. Neither do I object to some of the arrangements made by Dr. Cullen, in his system of nosology; but I insist on its injurious tendency as a whole, since, in many cases, it implies what is not proved, and in many others, gives the seal and sanction to opinions which are false; tending thus by its authority to perpetuate errors which must have an injurious influence on our practice. Indeed, the system was founded on opinions entertained by its author, regarding the proximate causes of diseases, and which are now pretty generally abandoned; and hence, with the abandonment of the opinions respecting them, we must now abandon the system of which these opinions were the support.

But I will not, for I need not, pursue this subject further; for the whole fabric of medical opinions, ancient and modern, with the systems of medicine founded on them, has been shaken to its foundation by the labors of recent inquirers, and is rapidly falling into ruins. The French pathologists, following the path marked out to them by our enlightened countryman John Hunter, have set us an example of diligent and successful

research into pathological anatomy. By the investigations prosecuted by them into the structure of the several tissues of the body, of their uses or functions, of their particular morbid states, and of the diagnostic signs by which these last are severally distinguished, we have afforded us the prospect of possessing a large supply of materials for the building up of an efficient and natural pathology. In the race, indeed, which they are running, they promise to outstrip the competitors of all other nations, and, perhaps, not least those of our own; for to other causes favoring their success, they have those opportunities for frequent morbid dissection, which are so necessary for improvement in the knowledge of disease, but which are, in a great measure, denied to us, through the effects of popular prejudice, and the absurd enactments of our legislature; and, I regret having to add, through the seeming countenance afforded to both, by the highest of our chartered bodies confining the exercise of its corporate power and influence to purposes which are as unconnected with the interests of our art, as they are foreign to the intentions of its founders.

Though all these obstacles, it is reasonable to hope, will, ere long, give way to the im-

pulse of a more enlightened and liberal mode of thinking amongst us; and when, in the improvement of our art, as in so many of the other great improvements of the age, we may set an example, instead of having to follow one; and thus contribute our share to that distinction which our country has attained, by her preeminence in the arts and sciences, by her literature, by the glory of her arms, and by the free institutions which she cherishes.

But to return to our subject. In the observations which I made on the nature of a true knowledge of disease, I stated to you that a mere acquaintance with its symptoms does not constitute this knowledge; and I have now to add, that though not the whole, yet it forms a part, and a very necessary part, of that knowledge, and must be assiduously sought for by clinical observation and practice. For a disease is not a single phenomenon, which may be rendered fully cognizable by description; but it is made up of symptoms, the relation of some of which to each other, and to their common cause, is often remote. Thus, to distinguish between the fever of acute rheumatism, and that of typhus, would demand from us but little acquaintance with disease: but the claim on our

experience does not end here; for, in the treatment of the latter complaint, we have to distinguish those symptoms which are contingent, from those which are proper to it; the signs of that debility which precedes and attends the excitement, from that which accompanies its decline; the delirium of excessive local vascular action, from that resulting from the morbid diminution of it; and thus to decide on the important points, when to subtract from the general strength, and when to add to it, with the due discrimination of that multitude of symptoms which collectively form the disease, and which require to be appreciated, individually, in regard to the influence which each exerts in retarding or preventing its favorable termination. To attempt to acquire this necessary but difficult knowledge of disease by books, or lectures alone, would be a fruitless task; for, with whatever accuracy a disease may be described, there is no language, however select or studied it may be, that can convey an adequate notion of those nice but discriminating marks which are discoverable in the countenance and manner of a patient and which serve as guides to the practised observer to conduct him through that obscurity which the complexity of its symptoms, and

the variety of its forms, so frequently involve disease. A book, therefore, containing a description of the symptoms of a disease, must be employed no otherwise than as his guide, which is to direct him into the more ready observation and acquaintance with them. It is his map, or chart, and which, like that of a town, he must use as such; imitating, in this, the conduct of the traveller, who, desirous of becoming informed of the local peculiarities of the streets and houses of a city, traverses himself the place, and only uses the plan he has of it to facilitate and direct his examination of them. It is knowledge thus acquired, which forms what we term experience; and which consists of a facility in detecting the presence of a disease, by an observation of its symptoms, combined with an accurate understanding of the pathological conditions on which it depends, and of the method by which it should be treated. Experience, without these latter qualifications, would be merely the experience of nurses; and would be, at once, both barren and unprofitable to its possessor.

You will collect from the observations which I have made, that there is a true and a fictitious kind of knowledge; the one being limited to the sensible appearances or symp-

toms of a disease, the other embracing this, together with the pathological conditions on which it depends. That this, the true knowledge, is founded on the knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and pathological anatomy, united to the diligent study of disease, and of the effects of medicine, as acquired at the bedside ; for, as the principles of medicine are but deductions from facts, it is only by the acquisition of facts that these can be established. And, lastly, that a nosological arrangement of diseases must follow, and not precede the acquirement of their true pathology ; and must thus be reserved, like the placing of the keystone of an arch, as the finishing act of the builder ; for, to continue the figure, its earlier employment would only encumber the workmen, without adding either grace or stability to the structure.

And now, gentlemen, let me address you more particularly as students who are just entering on the study of your profession. Your object is to acquire a knowledge of disease. Lord Bacon has said, that "knowledge is power." You are, therefore, in search of power—of power which is to enable you to subdue disease, and hereby diminish human suffering. To these motives for diligence, no other considerations need be added ;

for it cannot be overlooked, that in the exercise of your profession you will be under the strongest obligation to discharge its duties faithfully, for your responsibilities will be indeed great. To you life and health will be entrusted, and you will accept the trust under an implied compact with your patient, that you shall receive a reward for your skill, and that, in return, the skill that you will exercise shall be efficient, and merit the reward. Let it not, therefore, lay as an abiding weight on your consciences, that, having the means, you neglected to acquire the necessary skill, and ventured on the trust without it. To you who shall acquire this knowledge, and you all may acquire it, it will be to you as power ; and not merely in relation to the control it will give you over disease, but as procuring for you that highest of earthly enjoyments, self approbation ; as fulfilling the expectations which your friends have formed of you ; and as the means of procuring you an honorable independence, with the numberless enjoyments which flow from it ; together with that distinction which attaches to every one engaged in our profession, who exercises it honorably and skilfully. Let me then urge you to the same diligence in your studies, as if the whole

burden shall hereafter lay on you of its further improvement. It is only by aiming at such that any excellence can be attained. The field of medical research is open to you all, and it invites you all to its cultivation; and it is to you, as part of the rising generation, and as students of medicine, and ere long to be practitioners in it, that the invitation is especially given. Nor can the task, however laboriously pursued, prove to you an unprofitable one; since to you it will yield its own high reward, in storing your minds with still more knowledge, and thus endowing you with still more of that power which is demanded for the treatment of disease. To most of you the attainment of these objects will, and must be the proper limit of your endeavors and of your desires. To some of you, however, higher objects will be kept in view and aimed at; for though the temple of Fame be placed on the highest of earth's eminences, and her imperishable wreaths on the highest part of the temple, there are those who will aspire to their possession. To such, if any such be here before me, I would say, Go on in your career of honorable toil, alike regardless of the allurements that might tempt you from your path, or the obstructions that might impede

you in it. Your toil, and the objects of it, will be equally worthy of you; for in your labor to explore the yet undiscovered operations of nature, there is no assignable limit to the services with which you may benefit mankind. And as for the reward of your labor, you will seek it, not merely in the reputation and wealth which will accrue to you as the valued practitioners of your districts, but in that noblest of all human rewards, the consciousness of deserving one, and in that highest of all human distinctions, of having your names united with those who have been justly regarded as the benefactors of the world, and the pride and ornament of their country.

SULPHUR BATHING.
Continued from page 391.

Sulphureous fumigations, even in the very name, have almost given offence to the feelings of some individuals among my acquaintance, and have served, in some instances, as a basis for ridicule. Sulphur, they have said, is a disagreeable medicine; and the principle and practice of fumigation implies the idea of being smokedried. But these objections have no solid foundation: they admit of an easy, a brief, and a satisfactory reply. Sulphur thus administered, with aqueous vapor, loses its disagreeable smell, and assumes one not dissimilar from that arising from the fumes of ether; and, with respect to the objection of being smokedried, this remedy has, from its very nature, decidedly the contrary effect. It relaxes and opens the pores of the surface whilst the

patient is in the bath; thereby carrying off the effects of the increased heat of the system, with the seeds of disease; and it generally leaves the body invigorated and the mind cheerful.

Sulphur itself has, indeed, from time immemorial, been a medicine of good repute as an alterative, an aperient, a sudorific, a purifier of the blood, and a tonic: these are virtues which have been, and still are, allowed to it, by the community at large, and by medical men; the latter, however, are not so decided in their opinions, and it was not till this gaseous mode of employing it for cutaneous affections was discovered, that its efficacy and claims to more particular notice have secured to it due attention, and more fame than it has hitherto had, or will now easily be deprived of.

This medicine, converted into gas, and thus conveyed into the system, together with the caloric and vapor, is an ingenious combination of principles for the removal of many diseases: as, for example, for the relief of debilitated and stiffened joints.

When pains have existed in the joints for a length of time they are generally attributable to a lurking inflammation in the membranes of the ligaments surrounding these joints, constituting the disease called rheumatism. The parts being, by this remedy, relaxed by the aqueous vapor, lose the aridity, heat and stiffness, which accompany this complaint; and the pains become lessened, so as to permit the application of rubbing and pressure, in various directions, with the hand and fingers, on and round the parts affected. The medicated gas is then thrown into the chamber of the bath, and, by its stimulus, occasions an increased circulation in the small cutaneous vessels, the quantity of blood in the inflamed internal parts is lessened, the circulation is more in equilibrium, the pained parts become more

soft, pliant, and comfortable, and, on coming out of the bath, the patient feels a general glow of heat, is cheerful, and altogether invigorated.

A person in health taking one of the fumigating baths is first sensible of the increased heat, the pulsation becomes more distinct and firm, the countenance is rendered more florid and lively, and an astonishing quantity of extraneous perspirable matter is thrown off from the surface of the body. If the heat is now increased, there is a sensation of pricking on the skin, but which it is not always needful to produce: before the patient leaves the bath, the heat is gradually diminished, and, on coming out, the patient is made dry. When patients are weak, they are directed to lie down till they are cooled. Those who have no great degree of weakness will follow a right plan if they take exercise for a quarter of an hour. These easy precautions having been used, the body becomes much less liable to cold after the use of these baths, since the skin is strengthened in the performance of its natural functions, the suppression of which is the most common cause of cold.

As the pores, those innumerable important inlets of the human frame, have been thus cleansed, opened, and invigorated; and as the body, which, as far as its general surface is concerned, is sometimes left for years in a neglected and unassisted state, as if it were a machine of little value and little liable to decay, is thus powerfully assisted in the throwing off of disease; the numerous cures of gout and chronic rheumatism which have been effected by the judicious and persevering application of this gas, when impregnated with the medicinal virtues of which it is susceptible, cures which have appeared to most persons to be wonderful, and to others to be altogether inexplicable and almost miraculous, are, in a great degree, explained and accounted for. Those diseases are

frequently attended with much inflammation; but their existence principally depends on a debilitated state of the constitution, which not being able unassisted to throw off disease, local and partial determinations of the complaint are the consequence.

The tonic effects of the fumigating process is attended generally with unprecedented success in the cure of paralytic affections. When they prevail, inflammation is not commonly a symptom, but they usually depend on general or partial debility.

It must be gratifying to practitioners, to have such a remedy as this to resort to in those anomalous herpetic complaints, which seem to owe their origin and existence to too great a quantity of mercury taken into the system, or to a cold having been taken when the body was under the influence of this active medicine. A frequent mode of attempting to cure these complaints has been that of administering a regular course of mercury, and such complaint has seldom been relieved, but is not unfrequently aggravated, by such mode of treatment. These patients have been submitted to sulphurous fumigations, and they were attended with the greatest success. The general health was considerably improved; and, though the latent disease was not, in some instances, completely removed, it was greatly amended; a short mercurial course has been again resorted to, and then the disease was quickly cured.

These facts are very important. It has appeared, indeed, not unfrequently, to those gentlemen who are in the daily habit of directing the application of this remedy, that, in those cases, where it has seemed at the time to have little beneficial effect, yet shortly after it has been left off, the constitution has seemed to undergo a complete and favorable change, the disease has vanished, and the health become strong without other medicine having been given. This change has been attribut-

ed to the baths; and, since I have left Paris, I am informed, that in those pseudosyphilitic cases above named, where the medicine has been taken for a length of time, and has run off by the emunctories without affecting the constitution, the patients recover by the use of these invaluable baths, without a second administration of the mineral.

In long continued cases, which are most commonly attended with great debility, the further use of mercury, under such circumstances, seems to have no *beneficial* effect. On the *contrary*, and it is now pretty generally acknowledged, the medicine, which runs off through the different secreting organs of the body, increases the relaxation of the whole system, without acting on the disease itself, and produces a disease, *sui generis*, adding more and more to the debility and unsightliness of the sufferer. This is commonly the consequence of the very many ill-cured cases of *syphilis* so frequently met with.

In these cases, the best plan is to totally discontinue the further administration of that medicine, and to substitute the best indicated tonics; and those patients who have, in such cases, resorted to seabathing, as a strengthener, will immediately recollect, that, from such time, they have seldom passed a night free from distressing pain and remorse. To these patients I would recommend a generous light diet, warm clothing, a careful approach into moist cold air, and the avoiding of any sudden transitions, with three or four glasses of good wine every day, according to circumstances or the habits of the patients, together with the use of sulphurous fumigations, than which medicine nothing has so speedily the effect of neutralizing the too active effects of mercury; to take internally bark and other well indicated tonics; and, after some time, when the system has resumed some of its wonted vigor, if there

should remain any symptoms of syphilitic origin, I would recommend, in a mild form, the administration of the remedy, and should expect the disease to yield to such treatment.

In cutaneous affections, which are all more or less contagious, from psora, ringworm, and scaldhead, to leprosy, this remedy is particularly valuable, not merely because it is a powerful curative process, but because, from the commencement of its use, the contagiousness of the disease diminishes, and linen, clothes, and other articles, by being hung up on hooks within the apparatus, are no longer capable of conveying the contagion.*

To be continued.

* It is said by some persons that, for the good effects arising from the general adoption of this remedy, the public are materially indebted to Napoleon Bonaparte. His sudden landing in France, after his escape from Elba, happened during the time that the first special medical jury were conducting their experiments, to prove or disprove the efficacy of fumigations. He had no sooner assembled a few regiments, and marched them off towards Flanders, when the sick list of two of these regiments was numerously filled with invalids afflicted with psora. As two regiments were, at that time, of material consequence to the projects of Napoleon, and he could not afford to lose their services, he ordered a muster of the medical officers, and began his interrogations with—"Have you no remedy for the itch?" "Yes, your Majesty," was the reply, "a certain one." "What is it?" "Sulphur," was the answer. "How long will it take to cure these men?" Answer—"A fortnight or three weeks; in some cases, perhaps, a month." This, for a moment, at such a crisis, placed the emperor in as great a dilemma as if the disease had been pronounced incurable; two regiments were of importance to him; but to march them on would have been likely to have infected the rest of his army with the same disease. Suddenly he turned round again, and asked if they had no better remedy than that which would require three weeks to eradicate so trifling a disease. They then said, they were investigating a process for its cure, that they believed was more speedy in its effects, namely, fumigation with sulphur; but that they had not concluded their ex-

If any one, nowadays, attempts more fully to make known, or to extend the blessings of vaccination, or to hold up the smallpox, in its true, odious, and terrific aspect, a certain *soidisant*, selfstyled American Jenner seizes his pen, which is never long at rest, and exclaims. "I knew, said and did all this twenty or thirty years ago."

BOSTON, TUESDAY, JAN. 30; 1827.

THE SMALLPOX.

A man is passing through this disease in this city, duly fenced in and guarded against all unnecessary connexion or intercourse with his unvaccinated neighbors. We are glad that this poor fellow has not been driven from his home at this severe season to accommodate the fears and apprehensions of those whose fears and danger arise solely from unpardonable negligence and indifference to their own safety. If those who neglect vaccination are made to believe that no case of smallpox will ever be permitted to exist near them, they will be confirmed in their torpidity and neglect of duty. When men disregard the clearest injunctions of reason and experience, it is right to stir up their fears just so far

periments, and consequently could not recommend it. "Fumigation, fumigation!" muttered the emperor, "how is it applied?" "By exposing the bodies of the patients to the fumes of sulphur, with the exception of the face, which remains open to the atmospheric air." Without waiting the concluding word *air*, he demanded, "Can it do harm?" and was answered, that they had not yet become acquainted with any bad effects from its application. "Put them in a room, make holes through the wall for their faces, and fumigate them all," was the immediate command of the man whose fertile imagination was never at a loss for an expedient.

as to induce them to see, admit and avoid the danger which threatens, and would destroy them. Any more alarm than this, in any case, we hold to be improper and injurious,—if it be not so, we may then terrify a man into insanity, and flatter ourselves that we have done him good service.

It would be a perfectly just exercise of municipal power to say to the inhabitants of every town and village in the Union, if any man shall fall sick of smallpox, after three months from the date of this ordinance, provided the accident does not arise from his own culpable neglect of the known means of selfpreservation, he shall not be subjected to the inconvenience and risk of being removed from his place of residence. This would place the responsibility where it ought to be placed, on those who are liable to suffer and have the means of escape. Provision should always of course be made to vaccinate the poor gratuitously.

There is another measure connected with this case of smallpox, which deserves the approbation of Bostonians, the early decision of the Mayor and Aldermen to lay all the facts in the case before the public. This should always be done, for the public are willing to confide when they are fairly and ingenuously treated. Concealment is impossible, and the exaggerated, and distorted reports from a hundred discordant tongues, are always more vexatious, distracting and afflictive, than *the truth* from our friends; from those who feel some responsibility, and

some sympathy in the general calamity and security.

CARBONIC ACID GAS.

One death has occurred in this city since our last No., from the breathing of this gas, arising from woodcoals. It seems to be imagined by many that no danger is to be apprehended from any gas or vapor which proceeds from pieces of wood after they are fully reduced to coal,—but this is altogether unfounded. We could name seven persons who have recently been made faint, weak, and so sick as to puke, and remain ill for several days, merely from breathing the gas which is evolved from wood coals. In some of these instances, if the persons subjected to the action of this poisonous gas, had not been removed when they were from its influence, there is every reason to believe that life would have terminated in two or three hours.

NOTICE.

About these days, as the Almanac says, that is, at the beginning of the year, some of our subscribers in Maine and Mississippi have requested that their bills should be forwarded to them; this we have just done, and have also sent bills to some gentlemen between these extreme regions, who we supposed might wish "to see how we stand." Having done this, we have only to express our acknowledgments to those friends who have not given us an opportunity of sending out a bill, but merely of receipting one at home.

TO A LADY WHO SAID SHE LIKED TO SING
TO HER INTIMATE FRIENDS ONLY.

Had I foster'd a rose the most fragrant
and fair,
By Nature embellish'd, by culture im-
prov'd,
I could wish that its fragrance might
perfume the air,
Though I rear'd it alone for the bosom I
lov'd.

ERRORS.—A few errors escaped us last week, such as *countest* for *coun-
tess*, *adequate* for *adequate*, *drizzling* for *drizzly*, and *worst of all, per day* for *a day*. We are entirely opposed to this hybridous blending of two languages, especially when we have in our own all we need, and all we ought to wish. *A day* is good English, and *per diem* is good Latin; but *per day* is neither.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ATHENEUM :

OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.
FOR FEBRUARY 1, 1827,

WILL be published on Thursday,
by John Cotton, 184 Washington-
Street, corner of Franklin-Street.

CONTENTS.—Rob Roy—My Maiden Brief—The Children of Ravendale—Seven Marriages and not a Husband. A Tale—Grace Neville—The Lady buried Alive—Anecdote of Mrs. Jordan—A Lawyer's Bill—Elegiac Stanzas on a Watchman—A Theatrical Epistle from an Itinerant Player to his Friend—A Matrimonial Reform in Barbadoes—Honorable Men—Honesty of the Swiss—The Drunkard—A Child—Executions in Spain—Royal Liberality.

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber informs the Public that he has recently enlarged his accommodations for Insane Persons, and feels confident that he can now render suitable attention to all classes and characters of this description. He has devoted for ten years past, much of his time and study to this part of medical science, —and his past success induces him to con-

tinue his attention to this branch of medical practice.

The beauty of the natural scenery of this place, the salubrity of the atmosphere and the purity of the water, are equal to any in the State.—Thus the place is very favorable to all kinds of exercise, which is a very important aid in the treatment of diseases affecting the mind.

He will, as formerly, accommodate and attend to the wants and calls of other patients, and to surgical operations.

NEHEMIAH CUTTER, M. D.

Pepperell, Ms. Jan. 8, 1827.

MEDICAL RECORDER, No. 37.

THE publication of No. 37 of the Medical Recorder will be delayed a few days, with a view to add, as additional matter, a communication addressed to Judge Parker, by Dr. Warren. Considering that the above communication embraced much valuable practical information on Dislocations, also on Jurisprudence, a letter was addressed to Dr. Warren requesting permission to reprint the same in the Recorder, which has been politely granted.

Among the papers in No. 37, will appear the following, namely ;—Prize Essay on Hemorrhage, by Dr. Jameson; Dr. Hewson's interesting case of Umbilical Hernia; Dr. Watson on Sarcocoele; Dr. McCaw on Necrosis; Dr. Dow on Anomalous Bilious Fever; Dr. Briggs on the Functions of the Liver; Dr. Archer on Consumption; Dr. Wardrop on Ophthalmia; Dr. Hamilton on the Extraction of Calculus; Dr. Stephens on Erysipelas; Dr. Pitcairn on Empyema; Dr. Brown on Gastritis, and Mr. Gardette on the Teeth.

Among the reviews of late publications will be an interesting analytical review of a new work on Dental Surgery, by Dr. Keoker, formerly of Philadelphia, now of London.

The publications in the Recorder and other Journals in relation to the Diseases of Natchez, &c. will be fairly discussed; by which it will be perceived that the Essays published in the Recorder are strictly correct, notwithstanding the attempts to make them appear otherwise.

The departments of Analysis of American and Foreign Journals, Analecta, and Medical Intelligence, will give the new and important medical information of the day. RICHARDSON & LORD, Agents,

Boston.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1827.

NO. 38.

TIC DOLOUREUX.

The celebrated Prussian physician, Dr. Hufeland, has lately published the following case of this distressing malady, which was cured by an issue, after the whole class of narcotics, blisters, metallic oxydes, &c, had failed to afford any relief.

"Madame N. had, during three years, suffered, at certain intervals, violent attacks of tic douloureux. At first, the disease returned only monthly; but in the course of the last year it recurred violently every week. The paroxysms, without any premonitory symptom, commenced in the right half of the lower jaw, and extended up the right side of the face. The pain increased in intensity, and the paroxysm sometimes continued twelve hours before it began to decrease. The caustic was applied between the angle of the lower jaw and mastoid process of the temporal bone of the right side, in the usual way, namely, an adhesive plaster, with an opening of about half the size of a sixpence, was placed over the part, and the

pure potash paste was introduced. In about three quarters of an hour this was removed, and the part poulticed till the eschar had separated, when a pea was introduced into the ulcer, to keep up a discharge. Three days after the application of the caustic, a violent paroxysm of pain occurred, during which the patient was so unmanageable, that she tore off the dressings, so that it became necessary to keep up the discharge, by applying powdered mezereon to the surface. Only two mild paroxysms, continuing about half a minute, occurred during a fortnight, and afterwards only a very mild attack, continuing about a quarter of a minute, when the weather is damp or rainy, which is about every three or four months.

"I cannot allow," says Dr. Hufeland, "this opportunity to pass, without observing, that I have many times found counter-irritants and issues, applied in the space which lies between the flap of the ear and mastoid process, to prove more beneficial in cases of pains in the ear, teeth, and head, and

chronic inflammation of the eyes, than large ones in the neck or temples." In cases of tic douloureux, which have resisted the remedies that have proved most successful, as the carbonate of iron, tincture or extract of belladonna, Prussic acid, hemlock, the sulphate of quinine, and acupunturation, the caustic, as recommended by Dr. Hufeland, is certainly worth a trial.—*Gazette of Health.*

ANATOMY.

Mr. Tuson has published a second part of his very valuable work, entitled, "A new and improved System of Myology," description, &c. of the muscles, illustrated with plates, on a peculiar construction. The first part of this laborious and most praiseworthy undertaking, we have noticed in our number for January. The second part, now before us, contains a representation of the anterior and posterior muscles of the arm and hand, in layers; so that on raising the first layer, the muscles which lie under it are exposed in their natural situations, that is, exhibiting their attachments, insertions, &c. To pupils who are attending anatomical lectures, this work is a most valuable acquisition, as a book of reference on their return from a lecture, not only to impress on their minds the shape, the

situation, attachments, insertions, &c. of the muscles, which were demonstrated at lecture, but also their names; the latter of which is rarely retained during the first course of attendance. To practitioners in the country it will prove no less useful, not only to keep up their knowledge of anatomy, but for reference in cases of particular accidents, in which it may be necessary to apply a ligature to a trunk or branch of an artery, lying under or between a muscle, and to perform any other operation. We are glad to observe a Supplement to this work announced, by Mr. Tuson's respectable publishers, Messrs. Callow and Wilson, which is to embrace a representation of the arteries, veins, nerves, lymphatics, the viscera of the chest and abdomen, the brain, the ear, and the eye, on the same novel plan. In this volume Mr. Tuson purposes to describe the circulation of the blood in the fetus, the secretions of the bile, urine, &c.; the articulations of the bones, &c. &c.

The colored representations of the muscles so nearly approximate nature, that we recommend them to anatomical students in preference to the uncolored ones. They are, in fact, such close imitations of nature, as to appear like the parts in miniature, most carefully dissected by the subde-

monstrator, for the use of his master, the lecturer.—*Ibid.*

LETTUCE.

A Dr. François having given the inspissated white juice of the *garden lettuce*, termed, by Dr. Duncan, Senior, *Lactucarium*, an extensive trial, in a variety of irritative affections, ascribes to it the power of allaying pain, of producing sleep, diminishing the action of the heart, and of repressing inordinate heat, without the unpleasant sequels of opium. The composition recommended by Dr. Duncan, Senior, under the name of Lettuce Lozenge, has certainly proved more beneficial in cases of catarrhal and winter coughs, than any remedy we have seen or known employed in these complaints. It speedily allays irritation in the membrane lining the windpipe and bronchial tubes, promotes expectoration, abates fever, increases the secretion of the skin, and, at the same time, does not, like opium, constipate the bowels, or disorder the head.

A Dr. Thorle states, that he has found the extract of the strong, or opium-scented lettuce, *lactuca virosa*, in conjunction with foxglove, very beneficial in cases of effusion of serum in the chest. This composition acts powerfully on the kidneys, and apparently on the absorbent system.

A GENERAL PRESCRIPTION.

The following is a translation of Mr. Abernethy's general prescription for improving the general health, and thereby curing or suspending the progress of chronic disease, in any part of the body, except syphilitic affections, when he prescribes the blue pill, in doses to affect the mouth.

Take of Epsom Salt, four drachms ;
Manna, two drachms ;
Compound Infusion of Senna, six ounces ;
Compound Tincture of Senna, two ounces ;
Spearmint water, one ounce ;
Distilled water, two ounces ;
One tablespoonful to be taken the first thing in the morning.

Take of Blue Pill, half a drachm.
To be divided into ten pills, one to be taken every other night.

With this prescription Mr. A. generally gives the following memorandum, on another piece of paper, which is generally taken to an apothecary or chemist with the prescription :—“ The First Part of Abernethy's Surgical Observations, from Longman and Co.” N. B. page 73.

From the Boston Gazette.

CARBONIC ACID GAS.

MR. EDITOR—In a short notice of a late instance of the fatal effects of burning charcoal, inserted in your last paper, I promised to give some account of the principles on which these effects depend. These, though familiar to every chemist, do not appear to be well understood by the public, and it is evidently important that they should be as much so as the nature of the case admits; for if

the general theory is known, the application of it to particular cases will be easy.

The individual whose death was alluded to in the former notice, was perfectly aware that the use of charcoal, such as is purchased from the carts, was dangerous in a close apartment; but not having any notice of the fact, that *every common article of fuel* produced the same deleterious air, she used coals from the hearth without scruple, for the purpose of warming such an apartment: and, from the remarks which I have heard since, I am inclined to think that a very large proportion of the inhabitants of this city are liable to make a similar mistake; a mistake which could not be made by any one who, going beyond the fact that charcoal was *dangerous* in certain circumstances, had learned further *why it was dangerous*.

I hope, therefore, that your readers will not be discouraged by the prospect of a chemical discussion, or the sound of chemical terms, from endeavoring to get a clear idea of the processes which take place in an operation so important to mankind, in many points of view, as that of combustion, or burning.

In order to make these intelligible, it is necessary to premise, that the air which we breathe is not a simple and indivisible fluid, but really consists of two parts, of which one only is the proper support of life. This is called by chemists oxygen gas, or vital air.—Any given quantity, as for instance a hogshead full of common air, is composed of one part of this vital air and three parts of another, called nitrogen, which does not support life. In other words, only one quarter of the air contained in the hogshead, or a room, is the vital air. The other three quarters serve only to dilute the vital portion, which, to use a familiar expression, is too strong to be breathed alone, just as *high wine*, or alcohol, is too strong to be drunk with-

out water. But as the water, in the latter case, contributes nothing to the excitement produced by a glass of spirit and water, so the nitrogen of the air does nothing towards the peculiar change in the living system produced by oxygen—it merely dilutes and prevents its effects from going too far.

This oxygen, or vital part, is just as necessary to the combustion, or burning of fuel, as it is to the life of an individual; neither can go on without it. If you enclose therefore a man and a Philadelphia furnace of charcoal in a tight room, they will both use the oxygen, and the man will at length die, and the fire go out; but the man will die first, for the fire will go on so long as there is any oxygen to be had, but the process of breathing will stop before all the oxygen in the room is gone, for reasons of which it is not necessary to go into the details.

Now it is quite unimportant, in this point of view, of what material the fire is made. It may be coal, or wood, or even oil, an Argand lamp for instance, and if the room is perfectly tight the effect will be the same.

But it will be perceived that by this operation a quarter part of the air is destroyed, and if neither the fire nor the man returned anything for the oxygen they received, a sort of vacuum, to speak familiarly, or space, would be made, and accordingly if there are any considerable crevices, fresh air will rush in with great force to supply the deficiency—and, as rooms are commonly constructed, a large quantity would gain entrance into the apartment and supply fresh oxygen.

The truth, however, is, that both the fire and the man do return something for the oxygen which they receive, or rather they return the same oxygen mixed with another substance. This is in fact all the use they make of the oxygen, namely, to mix it with a portion of their

substance and return it again. The oxygen, however, thus mixed, is as different a thing from what it was before, as oil of vitriol and water is from water alone. This indeed is the whole process of combustion. The burning article is continually mixing a portion of its substance with oxygen. If it cannot get oxygen it will go out—and, on the other hand, when it has mixed all that part of itself which is miscible with oxygen, it will also go out, even if oxygen is ever so abundant. Thus, if we burn a piece of pure sulphur, it will mingle the whole of itself with the oxygen of the air, the sulphur will disappear, and in its place we shall have an air which, when mixed with water, makes oil of vitriol.

There are several substances in nature, which have this power of mixing themselves with oxygen. One of these is called carbon, and the principal article which is used for common fuel. I say the principal article, for all our fuel is useful nearly in proportion as it contains carbon, there being indeed another ingredient, something which causes the flame—but the relative duration of burning substances depends mainly on the carbon which they contain.

Lehigh coal is little more than carbon mixed with earthy matter. The carbon, however, is the only part, with a trifling exception, to be noticed by and by, which mixes with oxygen. When this is all expended, the fire is at an end, and we have the earth left in the form of ashes, which will not mix with oxygen any more than oil will mix with water.

Liverpool coal in like manner contains carbon and earthy matter, and another substance, which mixes with oxygen, and makes flame. This however is soon used, and we have only the carbon and earth left, which still continues to burn, and gives great heat, till the carbon, as before, is all mixed with oxygen, and then nothing is left but the earth or ashes.

Wood also contains carbon, earth, water, and the substance, hydrogen, which makes flame. When the water is distilled off, and the substance of flame expended, there remains only carbon and earth or ashes. But, as the first ingredients, namely, the water, and inflammable substance, occupy a great deal of room, it is often convenient to have the wood without them, and this is the use of the charcoal manufacturer. He burns away these ingredients and brings us the one which we want, namely, the carbon, mixed however, with earth, which he cannot separate from it. It is evident therefore that it is of very little consequence, in one point of view, whether we use the carbon of an oak log, which has been deprived of its other ingredients in our own fireplace, or that of one which has undergone the same process in a coalkiln. The carbon is that which burns in either case. The charcoal-maker takes away the other ingredients, and he does nothing more, and so do we in our fireplaces—the only difference is, that by burning his logs in a close oven, kiln or stack, he has a larger portion of the carbon of a given quantity of wood left than we have, who have burned it in an open fireplace. The reason perhaps will occur to most readers, and it is not necessary to dwell on it here.

I have said that fuel burns by mixing its carbon with the vital part of the air. The mixture thus made is called by chemists carbonic acid gas. It is an air which, like common air, has neither color, smell, or taste, nor is it discoverable by the senses, except by its effects on other substances. If we could look into a room filled with this, we should see nothing different from the ordinary appearance of rooms. If we could put our hands or tongue in it, it would produce no sensation. It differs however from common air in two important particulars. In the first place, it is a great deal heavier—if we put a pint of this air and a

pint of common air into a quart bottle, the former will occupy the lower half. If we fill a glass with carbonic acid gas, we can pour it into another, like so much water, and if a candle or piece of burning paper is contained in the latter, it will be extinguished, just as certainly as if we poured so much water on it.

Another difference between the airs is that the carbonic acid air cannot be breathed, when pure, any more than so much water. If we fill a hogshead with this air and plunge an animal into it, he will be as much drowned as if the hogshead was filled with water. The orifice of the lungs will immediately close with a spasm, and will not allow a drop to get in, and in both cases the animal will be strangled as completely as if we stopped his windpipe by tying a rope round his neck.

But though the lungs will not admit water in its common state, yet they will admit some when it is mixed with common air, as it is evident they do in a vapor bath, or even in a misty day. Water thus mingled with air does no harm—but the case is quite different with carbonic acid. If any quantity of this is taken into the lungs, it produces heaviness of the head, propensity to sleep, and interruption and at last total cessation of the breath, and consequently of the circulation of the blood.

After this general statement of principles, let us apply them to particular cases. We see at once why mischief is not likely to happen from wood or the flaming coals, as Liverpool, Sidney coal, &c. These articles contain other ingredients besides carbon, and the mixture which they make with oxygen is obvious to the senses, and very offensive to them. We have notice of the evil, and should never dream of making a fire in a room without a chimney with either. The same is true to a limited extent with Lehigh coal.—There is a little of the inflammable ingredient here, and a consequent effluvia,

which we can perceive.—It is only, therefore, when this inflammable matter is dispersed, and the carbon only remains, that we use it in close rooms—and this is one source of error, namely, the confounding of the sensible effluvia with the carbonic acid air, which, as I said before, can neither be seen, smelt, nor tasted. When charcoal, fresh from the cart or cellar, is burned, it gives out some of this effluvium, because by the process of burning in a close kiln, it never is so perfectly deprived of all its other ingredients as it is in an open fireplace; and this effluvium, which is easily perceived, is considered by most people as the source of danger, and they imagine that when this is burned away the danger is over. What I have already observed will show that this is very incorrect. The effluvium which we perceive by the senses is unquestionably injurious, but it is not what we have principally to guard against. It is the carbonic acid gas, which we cannot perceive by the senses, which continues to be produced after the effluvium has vanished, and which is, and must necessarily be produced, so long as a single coal is in a state of combustion.

Let us suppose now an individual placed in a room with a number of clean live coals, in a perfectly clean furnace—the coals burn brightly, but there is no smell, or none which would be regarded. The air in such a room is progressively changing its character in two ways. In the first place, it is losing its oxygen every minute, and thus becoming unfit for breathing, but besides all this, a quantity of carbonic acid gas is continually sent out, which being at first heated is thrown upwards and mingled with common air, but soon settles down like water on the floor.—Enough, however, is continually thrown up to enter in considerable quantity into the lungs of the man, who begins thus to breathe the air which is not only deprived of a part

of its oxygen, but is also contaminated with carbonic acid. Under the influence of this double evil, he begins to breathe slowly and deep, to feel a little heaviness and sinking feeling, as it is commonly called. This increases rapidly, and in a few moments he sinks down into the pond, if I may so call it, below, where his respiration is instantly stopped. If he suspects the cause early enough, or from a natural impulse opens a window, or door, he may get air enough to enable him to cry out—but the change to fresh air produces such a sudden shock on the system, that the individual often loses his sensibility for the time.

Let us next see how the case will be altered by the circumstance of there being a chimney in the apartment. It is obvious that if the chimney is heated so as to cause a draft, or if the doors are very loose, and the coals are placed under the chimney, that the air as fast as it is formed will be carried up, and fresh air rush in to supply its place—but if the chimney is cold, or the doors tight, or the coals placed in a heater at a distance from the fireplace, the hazard of the accumulation of this heavy air, which is not very ready to rise, becomes very considerable, especially if an individual is lying on a bed, when his head is of course lower than if he were standing or sitting. So if a part of a window is open, if this opening is considerably higher than the bed on which a person is lying, and the room somewhat cold, so that there is not so great a rush of air as to produce much circulation—though the danger is not so great, yet there may be some, and he should be somewhat doubtful about going to sleep in such a situation. The safest way if it is necessary to have coals in any other place than under a chimney,* is evidently to have the door partly open. Fresh air will then be admitted, and the heavy air will have a tendency to roll out by its own weight. But of

all places, a cellar or the hold of a ship is one of the most unsafe places to remain in long, in company with a pan of coals. It is like staying in a well while the spring is boiling up from the bottom, and the water gradually rising round you. Indeed it is worse, for the carbonic acid air, if the coals burn with any activity, is first thrown up for a short time, so as to pull you down, if I may so speak, into the fatal accumulation below. This accumulation will, it is true, put out the fire after a while, but this will happen too late to be of much service. It is very true that something of this sort is often done with impunity, which results probably from the following circumstances:—First, that in cellars cold enough to require this practice, there is frequently considerable dampness—and water has a great tendency to absorb the air, or else there are crevices below the level of a man's face, which admit fresh air. Moreover, the coals used for this purpose are frequently taken mixed with a quantity of ashes, which, though it preserves their heat for some time, does in fact prevent their burning much, and consequently the formation of carbonic acid air—and all this is in perfect correspondence with the above account, which I shall conclude with an anecdote which will illustrate what I have observed very well. A lady of my acquaintance was sitting some years since in her parlor with her two children. The parlor was warmed by a soapstone stove, provided with a damper, which stopped the draft of the chimney.

* Since writing the above, I have heard of an instance of the peculiar effects of charcoal, which happened lately in a neighboring town. The *heater* in this instance was placed in the *fireplace* of a chamber on going to bed, the chimney, however, not having been lately used. The heat of the coals was not sufficient to establish a *draft*, and the gas rolled out into the room, and the occupants narrowly escaped.

When a large wood fire had burned down to a heap of coals, so that there was no longer any smoke, she closed the damper. The carbonic acid, which was formed rapidly by the heap of coals, could no longer ascend through the chimney, and of course rolled out into the room. The children soon began to complain of being sleepy*, and the mother, though unsuspecting of the cause, sent them to play, or to go to bed, I forget which. Soon after she became sleepy herself. At first she did not notice it, but it increased so much that she was startled and rose up. She perceived that she could scarcely stand. Happily the bell-rope was near her hand, and she caught it as she fell to the floor, where in a few seconds she was found insensible by the domestics, who were alarmed by the sound of the bell. She was immediately carried to the fresh air, and is now alive, and well satisfied of the danger of burning charcoal in a close room.

G.

CONSUMPTION.

By recurrence to the bills of mortality which are just published for the city and county of New York, from the years 1816 to 1825, both inclusive, we find that the whole number of deaths has been 33,808, of which number consumption, the awful malady of our climate, has sent to the grave 6,646, nearly one fifth of the whole. When we consider that this disease carries its most sweeping ravages among those who are in the very bud and promise of life, and who, but for it might have lived to gladden their friends, and multitudes of them to adorn society, what a lesson does it

teach to the living to hearken to admonition and avoid the causes which lead to it. How many a lovely female, may yet be withheld from the fell monster, by precautions within her power, in the single article of her dress, and exposure to the chilling air, when emerging from the ballroom or the festive party!—*N. Y. Times.*

*For the Medical Intelligencer.*CASE OF FRACTURE OF THE JAW BONE,
FROM THE INJUDICIOUS REMOVAL OF A
TOOTH.

Communicated by T. W. PARSONS, M. D.,
Surgeon Dentist.

I was consulted a short time since by a sailor, who, suffering from a decayed tooth while on his passage from a port in the north of Europe, was under the necessity of submitting to the operation of extraction. Having no instrument on board for this purpose, and the pain being so great as to unfit him for his duty, the following rude method was resorted to. At his suggestion, one of his shipmates placed the edge of a chisel against the upper part of the decayed tooth, and then striking the handle with a small mallet, the tooth was immediately knocked out from its socket. He was relieved at once from the pain, and was so well pleased with this rough mode of operating, that he thought himself entitled to lay some claim to an invention for a new and expeditious method of extracting teeth. His confidence, however, in the ultimate success of this plan, was but of short duration,—on the third day after the operation his face began to swell, and he felt considerable pain in the cheekbone, extending all over that side of the face and jaw bone from which the tooth had been removed. Attributing this to a cold arising from exposure while attending to his duty on board the vessel, various external fomentations were made use of, but without affording any relief. The pain in the jaw continued with great

* Children are of course likely to suffer the effects of this gas in a close room sooner than adults, because in ordinary cases their mouths are nearer the floor. A child asleep in a cradle may thus be destroyed, while the mother who sits by just escapes.

severity till the tenth or twelfth day; it then began to abate, but the swelling was yet so extensive that it was very difficult to open the mouth sufficiently to receive food; there was now also a constant discharge of matter from the jaw bone, which rendered his situation very uncomfortable.

On his arrival here, which he says was between three and four weeks after the tooth was extracted, or more properly, knocked out, I found that the whole extent of the gum, from the centre quite to the back part of the mouth, on the left side of the upper jaw, was much swollen and of a livid color, with several small openings, from which a copious discharge of matter was constantly oozing out. On passing a probe into the socket from which the tooth had been removed, I immediately discovered that a considerable portion of the jaw bone, containing two large molar teeth, had been broken, was quite loose, and had fallen down below the surface of the other teeth. This was sufficient to account at once for all the painful symptoms he had suffered, which followed as a necessary consequence, from the high degree of inflammation in the sound parts, occasioned and kept up by the irritation from the fractured bone.

The method of cure in this case was obvious,—by a pretty free incision the gum was laid open, and all the fractured portion of the jaw bone removed; this was accomplished without any difficulty, and with very little pain, as it was quite loose, and perfectly disconnected from the sound part of the jaw bone. A low diet was enjoined for a few days, a dose of senna and salts was given, and the mouth was ordered to be rinsed out with a weak infusion of cinchona and seneka root, to which was added a small quantity of tincture of myrrh. As the broken piece of bone corresponded to the antrum, a part of the floor of this cavity was of course

contained in it, and I was apprehensive that the free introduction of air into the antrum might operate as a source of irritation to the membrane with which it is lined; this however was not the case,—the sharp rough edges of the sound bone were rounded by the action of the absorbent vessels, and within ten days the soft parts had contracted and healed over the opening into the antrum, in such a manner as completely to prevent the entrance of any foreign substance whatever.

In a case of extensive exfoliation of part of the jaw bone, which fell under my treatment a few years since, the soft parts did not heal over the cavity, and the antrum remained permanently open; the individual suffered great inconvenience from drink and particles of food occasionally passing into the antrum. The voice was also sensibly affected, resembling in degree that of a person who, as it is commonly expressed, has lost the palate or roof of the mouth. In this case I supplied the loss of the bone by accurately fitting a piece of the tooth of the hippopotamus—the substance sometimes employed for artificial teeth—so as entirely to cover over the opening into the antrum. This piece was secured at each end by means of a fine gold wire passed round a wisdom tooth at one end, and a bicuspid tooth on the other, and it gives me much pleasure to add that the success of this operation was much greater than I anticipated, remedying at once much distress and many inconveniences to which the patient had for some time been subjected.

From the Ohio Medical Repository.

DR. WRIGHT,

SIR—The following method of treating *Tinea capitis* was communicated to me, by Dr. J. Williams, of Rhode-Island. To its superiority over all other modes of treating this loathsome disease, with which I am acquainted, I can with confidence at-

test:—having in repeated instances, witnessed its salutary effects.

In any treatment of *Tinea capitis* cleanliness will aid much in the cure. It is well known that, in this disease, the growth of hair is astonishingly rapid; therefore the head should be shaved, and washed with soap and water. Take sulphate of iron and arsenious acid, equal parts; dissolve each in separate quantities of water; mix and boil them in a glass vessel, fifteen or twenty minutes, or till a decomposition of the sulphate of iron takes place.—Then filter the solution and an arsenite of iron remains which must be dried.

Prepare some adhesive plaster, and spread it on soft pliable leather, then sprinkle the pulverized arsenite of iron, slightly over it.

Shave and clean the head completely, and apply the plaster in pieces of one or two inches square; two or three of these plasters are to be applied at one time; commencing at some fixed point of the head.

At the expiration of thirtysix or fortyeight hours, the parts on which the plasters was placed, will puff or rise to the thickness of the finger; this effect is desirable, and till it takes place, the plasters must not be removed. But when effected, the plaster must be suddenly removed, when it will bring with it the hairs, removing them from their origin, leaving behind the morticule from which new hairs will be regenerated.

If there should be a few remaining hairs, after the plaster is removed, they should be removed by a pair of tweezers; *not one should be left*; this can be readily done, for all are either loose, or entirely detached by the plaster.

In a few days these parts will be found perfectly healthy, and eventually covered with a finer growth of hair than the individual formerly had.

In this manner proceed, till the whole diseased part of the scalp has been plastered.

If any ill effects should arise from the absorption of the arsenic, it will be perceived by a sallow countenance, and a puffy bag-like appearance, beneath the eyes. In this case the plaster must be removed for a day or two, and when reapplied, it must be over a less extent of surface.

This disease may be considered entirely local, no injury resulting to the constitution by its immediate cure; even where it has been of many years' duration.

In one case that came under my notice, the patient had been afflicted for some years; it extended nearly over the whole scalp.

It was successfully treated in the above method; no unpleasant circumstances occurred throughout the treatment, nor since. It is now two years, and the cure appears permanent.

Yours, &c.

W. PECK, M. D.

New York, Dec. 10, 1826.

We regret that the author of this communication has not been more particular in his directions how to prepare his new remedy for an old and troublesome complaint. We are not told how much of either ingredient to take.

GALVANISM.

Mr. La Beaume has just published his longpromised work on Galvanism, in which he has detailed, as concisely as possible, the results of his extensive experience of the galvanic fluid constitutionally applied to various diseases. The numerous cases in which Mr. La Beaume has found this powerful remedy efficacious, and the zeal and intelligence with which he has assiduously followed this branch of the profession, entitle his book to the consideration of medical practitioners, and prove him to be the most skilful and scientific galvanist in this country. We are aware that this science, hitherto so little understood, in this country

in particular, deserves to be developed and practised by a man of genius, medical science, and experience, and ought not to be confined to the mere operator; who, if a surgeon or physician prescribed it, would administer the fluid even in cases to which his experience taught him it was inapplicable. From a mere mechanical agent, Mr. La Beaume, in concert with some continental physicians, has successfully labored to raise galvanism into a medicinal as well as surgical remedy; and it has in many cases effected a complete restoration to health, without any auxiliary aid whatever. In cases of asthma, liver complaint, and in chronic affections in general, Mr. La Beaume has found galvanism to be a most efficacious remedy; and under his administration, we have no doubt but this philosophical agent will prove highly beneficial; but we are of opinion that the results which have happily attended Mr. La Beaume's practice, and which he has faithfully and impartially detailed, are to be expected from very few galvanists in this country; for few have studied this science so deeply, practised it so extensively, or proved themselves so well qualified to administer it, as Mr. La Beaume, whose zeal in this pursuit, and whose urbane manners, deservedly render him well known in and out of the medical profession. The volume before us being at a cheap price and of a portable size, we think it must be purchased by all who are laboring under those diseases in which the galvanic fluid is beneficial; and we sincerely recommend it to all practitioners, and more especially to those whose sceptical opinions relative to the constitutional effects of the galvanic fluid, arise from ignorance, prejudice, or selfishness. For our own part, we hope we love mankind and our own real interest too well not to benefit from a ray of light, whether it proceeds from a star or a glowworm; and though we may not

think with Mr. La Beaume on every medical subject, yet on that of galvanism we must allow his merits to stand very high.

A correspondent in Paris informs us that galvanism is become a great favorite with the leading physicians and surgeons of that city, as a direct nervous and muscular stimulant. He states, that it had such an immediate and powerful effect in exciting the corporeal and mental energies of the celebrated tragedian Talma, that he is satisfied, if it had been employed in an earlier stage of his disease, it would have succeeded in restoring him to health. The state of his chest, abdomen, nervous system, &c. clearly point out that debilitated condition of the whole frame which is termed the grand climacteric disease. The celebrated physiologist, Majendie, has published some cases of blindness from palsy of the optic nerve, in which the application of the galvanic fluid to the fifth cerebral nerve succeeded in restoring sight. The experienced and scientific Dr. Dods, of Worcester, has found galvanism to succeed in two cases of St. Vitus's dance, after the usual remedies had failed.—*Gazette of Health.*

EFFECTS OF INTEMPERANCE.

A female was lately found dead in a house in New London; the jury decided that she came to her death by habitual intemperance.

A child was recently frozen to death near Charlestown, Va. It was with its mother in a wagon, and the driver being intoxicated, took a wrong course, and became lost in the woods. The wagon got fastened between some trees, and they were unable to proceed; they therefore left the wagon, and endeavored to reach some house. While they wandered in the dark and cold, without finding a house, the child fell lifeless from its mother's arms. She, too, having suffered extremely from the severity of the weather, nearly lost her life.

At a late meeting of the Philomatic Society of Paris, M. Becpuerel produced a stone possessed of very singular properties. It was a species of chalk from Siberia, where it was found in some granite rocks. The stone, when placed in the dark, exhibits a phosphoric light, which increases with the temperature. In boiling water it became so bright that he could distinguish printed characters close to the transparent vessel which contained it. In boiling oil, the effect was still further augmented. In boiling mercury it cast a light so brilliant that M. B. could read at the distance of five inches.

GALVANIC EXPERIMENTS.

The body of Colson, who was executed in this city on Thursday last, after being suspended from the gallows thirtyfive minutes, was taken down, and in a very few minutes afterward was submitted to the action of a very powerful Galvanic battery, consisting of 420 pairs of plates; and his lungs at the same time filled with oxygen gas. By the combined operation of these, the muscles of the eye were thrown into action; the eyelid thrown up, and the eyeball rotated; the muscles of the arms and legs were also powerfully contracted, producing clenching of the fists and motion of the toes. The lower jaw was raised and depressed, at the same time the twitching of the face resembled epilepsy. The operation was continued about forty minutes, before a large audience.—*Traveller.*

THE POWER OF THE MUSCLES.

One of the most wonderful properties of the muscles is the extraordinary force they exert, though they are composed of such slender threads and fibres. The following facts in relation to this point, are demonstrated by the celebrated Boreli, in his *De Motu Animalium*. When a man lifts with his teeth, a weight of two hundred pounds, with a rope fastened to the jaw teeth, the mus-

cles named Temporalis and Masseter with which people chew, and which perform this work, exert a force of above fifty thousand pounds weight. If any one hanging his arm directly downwards lifts a weight of twenty pounds with the third or last joint of his thumb, the muscles which bend the thumb, and raise that weight, exert a force of about three thousand pounds. When a man, standing on his feet, leaps or springs forward to the height of two feet, if the weight of such a man be one hundred and fifty pounds, the muscles employed in this action will exert a force two thousand times greater; that is to say, a force of about three hundred thousand pounds. The heart, at each pulsation or contraction, by which it protrudes the blood out of the arteries into the veins, exerts a force of above a hundred thousand pounds.

Dick's Chr. Philosopher.

SUGAR FOR PRESERVING FISH.

Dr. M'Culloch, of Edinburgh, has ascertained that the antiseptic quality of sugar is sufficient to preserve fish in the most excellent condition. He states, that this substance is so active that fish may be preserved in a dry state, and perfectly fresh, by means of sugar alone, and even with a small quantity of it. He has thus kept salmon for an indefinite length of time; and by this simple means fresh fish may be kept in this state some days, so as to be as good when boiled as when just caught. It is added, that, "if dried and kept free from mouldiness, there is no limit to their preservation; and they are much better in this way than when salted. The sugar gives no disagreeable taste. This process is particularly valuable in making what is called kippered salmon; and the fish preserved in this manner are far superior in quality and flavor to those which are salted or smoked. If desired, as much salt may be used as to give the taste that may be required; but this substance does not

conduce to their preservation. In that preparation, it is barely necessary to open the fish, and to apply the sugar to the muscular part, placing it in a horizontal position for two or three days, that this substance may penetrate. After this, it may be dried; and it is only further necessary to wipe and ventilate it occasionally, to prevent mouldiness. A table spoonful of brown sugar is sufficient in this manner for a salmon of five or six pounds weight; and if salt is desired, a tea spoonful or more may be added; saltpetre may be used instead, in the same proportion, if it is desired to make the kipper hard."

THE NETTLE.

In the newspaper of the Bavarian Agricultural Society, the nettle is said to have the following properties:—Eaten in salad, it relieves consumption; it fattens horned cattle, whether eaten green or dried; it not only fattens calves, but improves their flesh; it is an antidote to most maladies; sheep which eat it bring forth healthy, vigorous lambs; it promotes the laying of eggs in hens; it improves the fat of pigs; the seeds, mixed with oats, are excellent for horses; it grows all the year round, even in the coldest weather; and the fibres of the stem make an excellent hemp.

The nettle is much valued in Holland, where its young shoots are used as pot herbs; its roots for dyeing yellow; where the horsedealers give the seeds to horses, to make them brisk, and give them a fine skin; and where considerable portions of fields are planted with it, and mown five or six times a year, as green food.

ARABIAN METHOD OF PREPARING COFFEE.

It is found that the only certain mode of retaining the pure flavor of the coffee, is to roast, pound and boil it, all in quick succession, the roasted berries soon losing their flavor if laid by for a day, and the pounded coffee becoming insipid, even in a few

hours. The Arabs of the desert, who are from necessity economical in the use of this article, follow the same process, even if they require only two cups of the liquid, roasting a handful of berries on an iron plate, pounding them in the pestle and mortar while warm, and the instant the water boils, which it will generally do while the other preparations are completed, so that no time is lost, putting the pounded coffee into it, and suffering it to boil, stirring it at the same time for a minute or two, when it is poured out to drink. As the beverage is taken without sugar or milk, the slightest difference in the flavor is perceptible; and long experience having shown this to be the best way of preserving it in perfection, it is perhaps worth mentioning in detail particularly as the use of the article has become so general.

Buckingham's Travels.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, FEB. 6, 1827.

THE TUBBATH.

Pour six quarts of water into a common washtub,—step into this on rising from bed, and with a large sponge apply the water briskly to the whole body. The sponge should hold nearly a pint of water, and this filled, should be squeezed over and under each shoulder, over the back, &c. &c. This process may be completed in about a minute, if the bather is strong courageous and active, Step out of the tub, and with a crash. or coarse linen towel, let the body be thoroughly and quickly rubbed and dried. Dress expeditiously, and if cold, go to the fire, or exercise smartly till the system shall evolve sufficient heat to be comfortable.

But who is to practise this hero i expedient in winter? Not he or she who has made himself tender

and effeminate by neglect and mismanagement. They only who bathing in the sea, the river, or who have taken the showerbath in summer, and continued bathing in some form with cold water, through autumn, are entitled and enabled to take the tubbath at this season, with *pleasure*, refreshment and advantage.

There is one general rule with reference to coldbathing, which is true in all seasons, and necessary to be observed in all its modes and forms, whether general or local. When the bathing is properly performed, and is not soon followed by a return of blood, glow, and grateful warmth to the surface, it can never be serviceable or safe; for without this it will not only be irksome to the sensations, but will produce, or at least tend, to mischief. When the calorific or heatevolving powers of the system, when suitably aided by rubbing, external warmth and exercise, are not sufficient to secure this reaction, coldbathing should be abandoned.

This tubbathing we have practised about twice a week, one cold week excepted, through this and other winters, with all the usual benefits of coldbathing. The process may be called strong meat, and is therefore not fit for babes; we recommend it to men, to those only who by good habits have prepared and enabled themselves to bear, digest and assimilate it.

SIR JOHN MOORE.

The late Lieut. Gen. Sir John Moore was one of the most amiable men and distinguished warriors of his time. Those who may wish to

know how to estimate the private and military character of the deceased, can do it by reading what is said of him in Rees' Cyclopedias. After his wound from a cannonball, on his retreat, at Corunna, as the soldiers were slowly carrying him in a blanket from the scene of action, he made them turn him round frequently to view the field of battle and to listen to the firing, and was pleased when the sound grew fainter. On his arrival at his lodgings he was in much pain, and could speak but little; but at intervals he said to Col. Anderson, who for twentyone years had been his friend and companion in arms,—“Anderson, you know that I always wished to die in this way.” He frequently asked, “are the French beaten;” and at length when he was told that they were defeated at every point, he said, “it is a great satisfaction to me to know that we have beaten the French.” “I hope the people of England will be satisfied,—I hope my country will do me justice.” Having mentioned the name of his venerable mother, and the names of some other friends for whose welfare he seemed anxious to offer his last prayers, the power of utterance was lost, and he died in a few minutes without a struggle.

“Thus fell, at the age of 47, Lieut. Gen. Sir John Moore, at the conclusion of a critical victory, which preserved the remainder of his army from destruction,—a name that must belong dear to his country, which was well disposed to do justice to his memory, and gratefully to acknowledge, in every possible way, the important services he had achieved for it.”

How painful the reflection that in a civilized and christian community, such men as Sir John Moore can find a justification for devoting their eminent talents, blended with eminent virtues too, through a whole life, to the destruction of their fel-

low beings. Nothing could do this but the public sentiment which justifies the custom of War. How wonderful it is that this course of suffering and this infliction of suffering should continue to be so long sustained, as it is in many, otherwise pure minds, by a sense of duty, and without one upbraiding of the heart!

The Burial of Sir John Moore, who fell at Corunna, in 1808.

Not a drum was heard, nor a funeral note,
As his corse to the rampart we hurried;
Not a soldier discharg'd his farewell shot
O'er the grave where our hero we buried.

We buried him darkly at dead of night,
The sods with our bayonets turning;
By the struggling moonbeam's misty light,
And the lantern dimly burning.

No useless coffin enclos'd his breast,
Nor in sheet, nor in shroud we bound him;
But he lay like a warrior taking his rest,
With his martial cloak around him.

Few and short were the prayers we said,
And we spoke not a word of sorrow;
But we steadfastly gaz'd on the face of
the dead,
And we bitterly thought of the morrow.

We thought as we hollow'd his narrow bed,
And smooth'd down his lonely pillow,
That the foe and the stranger would tread
o'er his head,
And we far away on the billow.

Lightly they'll talk of the spirit that's
gone,
And o'er his cold ashes upbraid him,
But nothing he'll reck, if they let him
sleep on,
In the grave where a Briton has laid him.

But half of our duty was yet done,
When the clock toll'd the hour for retiring,
And we heard the distant and random gun,
Which the foe was suddenly firing.

Slowly and sadly we laid him down,
From the field of his fame fresh and gory;
We carv'd not a line, we rais'd not a stone,
But we left him alone in his glory.

WHAT'S HONOR ?

Not to be captious, nor unjustly fight,
'Tis to confess what's wrong, and do
what's right.

TO A LADY WHO DISAPPROVED OF ITALIAN STUDIES.

To lure me from the Tuscan muse,
Your wish is kind, your reasons true;
But English Olio still should choose
A better advocate than *you*.

In vain you plead for *England*, while,
On *Italy* to fix my choice,
You've all her sunshine in your smile,
And all her music in your voice.

To CORRESPONDENTS. We have received, from the author, a copy of Dr. Joseph Lovell's METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER for the years 1822, 23, 24, and 1825, from observations made by the Surgeons of the Army, at the military posts of the United States.—We are also indebted to a friend for a copy of Dr. J. H. Flint's Dissertations on the Prophylactic Management of Infants, &c. read at the last annual meeting of the Mass. Medical Society.—We would observe to S. S., though late, that we shall be happy to present to him, or to refer him to something satisfactory on the subject of his inquiry, if we can meet with anything relative to it which shall be worth his attention.—“Physiologus,” with abridgment and remarks, shall appear next week, unless the author objects to this disposal of his paper.—These acknowledgments were due, and intended to have been made, last week.

DICTIONARY.

Antrum, a large cavity in the middle of each upper jawbone, between the eye and the roof of the mouth, lined by the mucous membrane of the nose.

Bicuspis; the double fanged, or bicupid teeth, are the smaller grinders. They are the two teeth on the sides of each jaw next back of the canine, or eye teeth. The wisdom teeth are those furthest back in the jaw, four in number.

Eschar, the portion of flesh which is destroyed by the application of a caustic, or burning substance.

Mastoid process, an eminence of the temporal bone.

Mezereon, an acrid vegetable.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

BREWER & BROTHERS.

THE Copartnership heretofore existing under the firm of BARTLETT & BREWER, Druggists, was dissolved on the 31st ult.

SAMUEL N. BREWER, the junior partner, having succeeded to the business, has associated himself with his brothers, NATHANIEL BREWER, M.D.—and WILLIAM A. BREWER, who has been six years in the store. They will continue the business of Druggists and Apothecaries, at the old stand, Sign of the Good Samaritan, No. 92, Washington Street, under the firm of SAMUEL N. BREWER & BROTHERS, and promising every possible attention to their business, respectfully solicit patronage.

SAMUEL N. BREWER,
NATHANIEL BREWER,
WILLIAM A. BREWER.

Boston, January 1, 1827.

ORFILEA'S PRACTICAL TREATISE, ON Poisons, Asphyxies, Burns, and Apparent Death—adapted to general use—translated by J. G. STEVENSON, M. D.—with a Medicolegal, Chemical, and Anatomical Appendix, for the use of Physicians—1 vol. duodecimo.

Extract from a Report of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris.

"This work of M. ORFILEA must become universally esteemed, as it is freed from scientific terms, and is reduced to precepts the most simple, yet sufficient to effect the object proposed.

"It is to be wished that Government would take the necessary measures to distribute it among all classes of society; and especially that it may be in the hands of *Medical Practitioners*, the *Clergy*, and *Municipal Officers*, to whom a knowledge of its subjects is indispensable."

Published and for sale by HILLIARD, GRAY & CO. Washington Street.

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber informs the Public that he has recently enlarged his accommodations for Insane Persons, and feels confident that he can now render suitable attention to all classes and characters of this description. He has devoted for ten years past, much of his time and study to this part of medical science,

—and his past success induces him to continue his attention to this branch of medical practice.

The beauty of the natural scenery of this place, the salubrity of the atmosphere and the purity of the water, are equal to any in the State.—Thus the place is very favorable to all kinds of exercise, which is a very important aid in the treatment of diseases affecting the mind.

He will, as formerly, accommodate and attend to the wants and calls of other patients, and to surgical operations.

NEHEMIAH CUTTER, M. D.

Pepperell, Ms. Jan. 8, 1827.

MEDICAL RECORDER, No. 37.

THE publication of No. 37 of the Medical Recorder will be delayed a few days, with a view to add, as additional matter, a communication addressed to Judge Parker, by Dr. Warren. Considering that the above communication embraced much valuable practical information on Dislocations, also on Jurisprudence, a letter was addressed to Dr. Warren requesting permission to reprint the same in the Recorder, which has been politely granted.

Among the papers in No. 37, will appear the following, namely:—Prize Essay on Hemorrhage, by Dr. Jameson; Dr. Hewson's interesting case of Umbilical Hernia; Dr. Watson on Sarcocoele; Dr. M'Caw on Necrosis; Dr. Dow on Anomalous Bilious Fever; Dr. Briggs on the Functions of the Liver; Dr. Archer on Consumption; Dr. Wardrop on Ophthalmia; Dr. Hamilton on the Extraction of Calculus; Dr. Stephens on Erysipelas; Dr. Pitcairn on Empyema; Dr. Brown on Gastritis, and Mr. Gardette on the Teeth.

Among the reviews of late publications will be an interesting analytical review of a new work on Dental Surgery, by Dr. Keoker, formerly of Philadelphia, now of London.

The publications in the Recorder and other Journals in relation to the Diseases of Natchez, &c. will be fairly discussed; by which it will be perceived that the Essays published in the Recorder are strictly correct, notwithstanding the attempts to make them appear otherwise.

The departments of Analysis of American and Foreign Journals, Analecta, and Medical Intelligence, will give the new and important medical information of the day. RICHARDSON & LORD, Agents, Boston.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1827.

NO. 39.

CONDUCT TO BE PURSUED PREVIOUS AND SUBSEQUENT TO MEALS.

As dietetic regulations are intended for the use of those who are either suffering under disease, or are compelled, from the precarious state of their health, to attend to every circumstance which may be likely to preserve it, it is scarcely necessary, in a professional work, to apologize for the introduction of advice which, to the robust and healthy, may appear frivolous and unnecessary. It is admitted, that nature never contemplated the necessity of confining men to a certain routine of habit; nor did she contemplate, as far as we can learn, the existence of those diseases which may render such discipline necessary. We have in this place only to inquire into the habits which are most favorable or hostile to the process of digestion, and then to form a code for the direction of those who stand in need of such artificial assistance.

Exercise in the open air is essential to the wellbeing of every person; but its degree must be regulated by the cir-

cumstances under which the individual is placed. The interval between breakfast and dinner is the period for active exertion; and the enjoyment of it, when not attended with severe fatigue, will strengthen and invigorate all the functions of the body. This, too, is the period when the mind may direct its energies with the greatest chance of success; but it is important to remark, that *the valetudinarian and dyspeptic ought never to take his principal meal in a state of fatigue*: and yet I would ask, whether there is a habit more generally pursued, or more tenaciously defended? Ay, and defended too on principle;—the invalid merchant, the banker, the attorney, the government clerk, are all impressed with the same belief, that after the sedentary occupations of the day, to walk several miles to their villas, or to fatigue themselves with exercise before their dinner, or rather early supper, will sharpen their tardy stomachs, and invigorate their feeble organs of digestion. The consequence is obvious: instead

of curing, such a practice is should not supersede the necessity of walking; where the two modes can be conveniently combined, the greatest advantage will arise. I have heard that a physician of eminence has declared, that "*equitation is more beneficial to the horse than to his rider:*" my own experience on this subject will not allow me to concede to such a proposition; nor to that which maintains that "*riding is the best exercise for regaining health, and walking for retaining it.*" It must be admitted that the shaking which attends horse exercise, is salutary to the stomach and intestines; it is also less fatiguing to the inferior limbs; so that persons in a weak state can use it with less pain and difficulty. There is also another circumstance connected with this subject, on which I am inclined to think that sufficient stress has not been laid, the rapidity with which we change the air. I am not aware that any theory has been proposed to explain the fact; but I am perfectly well satisfied, that rapid motion through the air is highly beneficial. As this is a gymnastic age, I may be allowed to offer some further observations on the importance of exercising the body. The operation of *digging* is more beneficial than is usually supposed; and to dyspeptic patients it proves useful, by

the agitation thus occasioned in the abdominal region. Patients who have suffered from visceral congestion, have experienced the greatest benefit from it. I am induced to believe, that the general discontinuance of those manly exercises, which were so commonly resorted to by our ancestors in the metropolis, has contributed to multiply our catalogue of dyspeptic diseases; and I cannot but express my satisfaction at the prospect of the establishment of a society for their reintroduction. Stow, in his Survey of London, laments the retrenchments of the grounds appropriated for pastimes, which had begun to take place even in his day: what would he say, could he now revisit the metropolis? It has been truly observed, that had it not been for the effect of bodily exercise, Cicero* would never have triumphed at the bar, nor Julius Cesar in the field.

One of the great evils arising from too sedentary habits, is constipation of the bowels. This, however, may to a certain degree be remedied, by standing for a certain period; and I have repeatedly known the greatest benefit to arise from the student or clerk introducing a high desk into his office, by which he is enabled

to pursue his occupation in a standing posture.

I have already explained the necessity of exercise at that period of the digestive process, when the chyle enters the circulation; and it is, perhaps, not the least of the evils which attend the modern fashion of late dinners, that it should preclude the possibility of such a regulation. The utility of dancing may certainly be deduced from these views, and its propriety sanctioned on just principles; but the lateness* of the hour at which these recreations commence, and, what is worse, the excessive heat and ill ventilation of the apartments in which they are usually carried on, must counteract any benefit which might otherwise attend an indulgence in them. If exercise be useful during the period of sanguification, pure air is no less so; and I shall take this opportunity of entering my protest against the introduction of *gas* into the interior of our houses. *Carbureted hydrogen* is a deadly poison; and even in a state of great dilution, it is capable of exerting a very baneful effect on the nervous system. I have been consulted on several occasions for pains in the head, nausea, and distressing languor, which evi-

* See Plutarch's life of Cicero.

* In former times the ball commenced at six, and terminated at eleven; but now it begins at eleven and ends at six.

dently had been produced by the persons inhaling the unburnt gas in the boxes of our theatres. In order to afford additional support to the objections which I have urged on this occasion, I shall quote an account of the effects produced on Sir Humphrey Davy by the inspiration of carbureted hydrogen gas. He introduced into a silk bag four quarts of this gas nearly pure, which had been carefully produced from the decomposition of water by charcoal, an hour before the experiment, and which had a very strong and disagreeable smell. "After a forced exhaustion of my lungs," says he, "the nose being accurately closed, I made three inspirations and expirations of the gas. The first inspiration produced a sort of numbness and loss of feeling in the chest and about the pectoral muscles. After the second inspiration, I lost all power of perceiving external things, and no distinct sensation, except a terrible oppression on the chest. During the third expiration this feeling disappeared, I seemed sinking into annihilation, and had just power enough to drop the mouth-piece from my unclosed lips. A short interval must have elapsed, during which I respired common air, before the objects about me were distinguishable. On recollecting

myself, I faintly articulated, 'I do not think I shall die.' Putting my finger on the wrist I found the pulse threadlike, and beating with excessive quickness. In less than a minute I was able to walk; and the painful oppression on the chest directed me to the open air. After making a few steps, which carried me to the garden, my head became giddy, my knees trembled, and I had just sufficient voluntary power to throw myself on the grass. Here the painful feeling of the chest increased with such violence as to threaten suffocation. At this moment, I asked for some nitrous oxide.* Mr. Dwyer brought me a mixture of oxygen and nitrous oxide, which I breathed for a minute, and believed myself relieved. In five minutes, the painful feelings began gradually to diminish. In an hour they had nearly disappeared, and I felt only excessive weakness and a slight swimming of the head. My voice was very feeble and indistinct: this was at two o'clock in the afternoon. I afterwards walked slowly for about half an hour; and on my return was so much stronger and better, as to believe that the effects of the gas had disappeared, though my pulse

* Sir H. Davy had previously inspired this gas, and found it capable of producing an excitement resembling that of incipient intoxication.

was 120, and very feeble. I continued without pain for nearly three quarters of an hour, when the giddiness returned with such violence as to oblige me to lie on the bed; it was accompanied with nausea, loss of memory, and deficient sensation. In about an hour and a half the giddiness went off, and was succeeded by an excruciating pain in the forehead, and between the eyes, with transient pains in the chest and extremities. Towards night these affections gradually diminished; at ten, no disagreeable feeling except weakness remained. I slept soundly; and awoke in the morning very feeble and very hungry. "I have," says Sir H. Davy, "been minute in the account of this experiment, because it proves, that carburetted hydrogen acts as a *sedative*, *that is*, that it produces diminution of vital action, and debility without previously exciting. There is every reason to believe, that if I had taken four or five inspirations, instead of three, they would have destroyed life immediately, without producing any painful sensation."* After this proof of the poisonous nature of carburetted hydrogen,—after the cases of sickness and headache which have occurred, in con-

sequence of its inhalation at the theatre, am I not borne out in my opinion, that *its introduction into our apartments is fraught with danger*?

Sleeping after dinner is a practice of very questionable propriety; it is true, that the inhabitants of many southern climates indulge it with impunity: but it does not appear essential in our country, where animal food is used in such considerable quantities. In states of disease it may occasionally be useful, and the recumbent posture may expedite the passage of the aliment out of the stomach into the intestines; but the person who lies down for the accomplishment of such an object, should be careful to remove all ligatures from his body.—*Dr. Paris.*

From the New England Journal.
ON THE PREPARATION AND EMPLOYMENT
OF THE CHLORIDE OF LIME, FOR DE-
STROYING PUTRID AND INFECTIOUS EF-
FLUVIA.

Several years have elapsed since M. Labarraque, a Pharmacien of Paris, discovered that the chloride of lime, now generally employed instead of chlorine for bleaching, likewise possesses the power belonging to this gas of destroying putrescent effluvia. It was afterwards remarked that it has also general antiseptic properties, and it has further been, with much reason, presumed to possess the power of destroying the effluvia of infectious disorders. Dr. Kopp, of Hanau, in a late visit to France, had an opportunity of witnessing its employment at the *Morgue* of Paris, and bears unqualified testimony to its rapid and perfect

* "Researches, Chemical and Philosophical, chiefly concerning Nitrous Oxide, and its Respiration, by Humphrey Davy."

operation. As we have not hitherto taken any notice of this important discovery, we shall endeavor to remedy the omission, by giving an abstract of a report which was lately delivered to the prefecture of Paris, by Professor Marc, as president of a committee of the Board of Health, and which has been translated at length in the work of Dr. Kopp. The report, we may add, has been adopted by the French government, who have advised the use of the remedy in all hospitals and lazarettos.

The first experiments were made at the *Morgue*, on a dead body far gone in putrefaction. Half a pound of chloride of lime being dissolved in about 20 pounds of water, the solution was poured over the body, and the board on which it rested. In one minute the smell was almost destroyed, and it disappeared entirely when the washing was repeated. The superintendent of the institution has uniformly remarked, that bodies washed in this manner remain fresh much longer than others. The next experiment was made with the public urinetubs of the Palais-Royal, the disgusting fumes of which render this almost an *experimentum crucis*. About a quart of the solution was mixed with the contents of one of them, and the urinous odor was completely destroyed in a single minute. Similar experiments were made, with the same results, in the necessaries of the *Café des Variétés*, and the *Passage du Gymnase*,—places of which we cannot give a better idea, than by mentioning that no Englishman ever went to any of them twice. After relating these experiments, the reporter proceeds to mention the various establishments where stores of it should be kept under the direction of the prefecture, and adds some instructions regarding the method of employing it. The powder should be dissolved in 40 or 45 parts of water, and when it is used for removing the putrid odor of dead bodies, it should be

poured over them twice or thrice a day, according to the temperature of the weather, and the bodies should be kept over night in coarse linen wrappers steeped in the solution. In private families, when a dead body has begun to putrefy before burial, this plan will be found exceedingly useful for preventing the impregnation of the furniture with the putrid effluvia. It has been likewise found to be of signal advantage for facilitating the medicolegal examination of putrid bodies. A quantity of the solution is to be kept at hand, and poured over the various parts as they are successively exposed.

The chloride which is most easily procured in this country, is the common bleaching powder, originally prepared by Mr. Tennant, of Glasgow, and now made by most chemical manufacturers. That made by Mr. Tennant is charged so completely with chlorine as to form a bichloride. As this preparation may not be easily got in some parts of the country, we subjoin the following formulas published lately by Labarraque in the *Journal de Chimie Médicale*. For preparing the dry chloride, he recommends that a twentieth part of common salt be mixed with slaked lime. This mixture being put in deep earthen-ware pots, and the tube of the retort plunged to the bottom, the chlorine is to be disengaged from a mixture of 576 parts of muriate of soda, and 448 parts of oxide of manganese, by means of sulphuric acid diluted with three-fourths its weight of water. The acid should be added gradually by means of an S tube. A solution may likewise be made at once in the following manner. A mixture of three parts of slaked lime, and one part of muriate of soda, is to be diffused in a proper bottle, in twenty times its weight, or eighty parts of water; and while the gas is passing through it, the mass should be occasionally stirred with a wooden agitator. The solution thus procured may be dilut-

ed with its weight of water before being used.—*Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal.*

ON THE CAUSE OF THE YELLOW COLOR
OF THE SKIN AND FLUIDS IN THE IC-
TERUS OF NEWBORN CHILDREN.

M. Lassaigne has very properly remarked, that the opinion entertained of the cause of the color of the skin in the icterus of newborn children, is founded rather on analogy than experiment. Having resolved to subject it to the test of experiment, he proceeded to analyze the subcutaneous cellular tissue, and the various fluids which are tinged in this disease, with the view of detecting in them the principles of the bile. He has in consequence discovered that the color is caused by a yellow matter which possesses some, but not all of the properties of the coloring matter of the bile. It resembles the yellow matter of the bile in forming a green solution with the caustic alkalis, in being precipitated dark green from this solution by the acids, and in being turned to greenish, then to blue, and finally to violet, by nitric acid; but it differs in being soluble in alcohol. These points of resemblance he considers to be insufficient for warranting the conclusion that they are the same matter; and as he was never able to detect any of the other principles of the bile either in the subcutaneous cellular tissue, or in the yellow serum extravasated into the cavities, or in the blood, he infers that the cause of the color is not absorption of the bile.—*Ib.*

PUBLIC DISPENSARIES.

To the Ed. of the Med. Intelligencer.

SIR—Among all the means for mitigating human suffering, there is none perhaps so little attended to as Dispensaries. We have them I believe in all our large cities, but generally the means are inadequate to the ends. In most cases the funds are small, arise from private contri-

butions, and in all cases, I suspect, are quite incompetent to provide that general relief which should be the object of these institutions. In the city of New York this object is by no means attained, and I would ask, what subject is more worthy of municipal provision and regulation than that of preventing the loss of the lives, or the temporary loss of labor of that class of citizens whose industry produces so many of the comforts which surround us? It is not so particularly for those who are very indigent that I now speak, but for those who while health is continued to them, are able to provide for their families, and perhaps live in much comfort or happiness. When, however, sickness invades their humble dwelling, afflicting themselves or families, and in a large number of children some are always liable to lose their health, knowing their inability to pay a physician's bill, they defer calling in one, and from pride, or knowing that the calls on the dispensary are more than can be attended to, they prefer to suffer and delay till the necessity of the case compels; then perhaps it is too late, or a lingering sickness is brought on, and the physician who is not hurried too much by profitable practice, consequently who can least afford it, must give his gratuitous attendance, and perhaps provide medicines and other things required. This is the state of the case with many of the mechanics and laboring class of citizens, to whom the idea of applying to a charitable institution is extremely grating to their feeling. To be sure the attendance is finally of a charitable nature, but in most cases an idea is indulged that remuneration may be made at some future time, though this time comes, or at least the remuneration, in but very few instances.

How then can this be remedied? Were the corporation to appoint a sufficient number of physicians and surgeons with a compensation suffi-

cient to secure their *undivided attention*, would not this secure the object, benefit society, and be a measure of humanity worthy the spirit of a government, which professes to be for the public good, and which those who suffer for the want of it, have a right to call for? With an institution of this kind, a large portion would be induced to apply early in all cases, which would frequently shorten sickness, and the industry of many would not be lost; vaccination would be extended, and in obstetrical cases fewer lives lost for want of assistance, which I have reason to believe is in many instances not now called in.

It may be said that New York has a Hospital, an Almshouse, and a Dispensary. These might have been sufficient at one time for all the purposes intended, but with her present great and increasing population, they are far from being sufficient; beside that they do not comprise those cases which would come under the proposed institution. Let then the city be divided into districts, to each of which a physician may be appointed with a sufficient salary to compensate him for his time devoted, as also to ensure men of experience and information. Let the physician provide the medicine. Let likewise a house be erected in each district for the reception of those not likely to be well attended at home; a district hospital provided as required, and the duty of the district physician should be to attend daily and when required. These would be suitable places for clinical lessons, to which the medical class could be admitted in subdivisions, and not so crowded, as I have seen in hospitals, that it was possible for but a few to derive benefit from them. An Institution on this plan would, in promoting vaccination, and forming so many sources for the collection and distribution of virus, be of sufficient importance, beside that it would enable the physician to follow the pro-

gress of this preventive disease through all its stages, by allowing sufficient compensation for the trouble, which the contemptible bargain now carried on cannot do. CELSUS.

New York, Jan. 1827.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

MR. EDITOR—Many persons endeavor to harden themselves by going in extreme cold weather with no warmer clothing than they are accustomed to wear in moderately cool weather. They see some of their acquaintance buffeting the winds and stemming the storms without great coats, and they feel a laudable ambition to be as brave and as tough as they are. And without consideration they immediately form the sage resolution that they also will learn to go without an outward garment. And they are perhaps confirmed in their resolution by observing that their hardened friends, as they regard them, enjoy remarkably good health,—that they are blessed with strong, robust, iron constitutions; and they hope, by similar means, to acquire similar constitutions. But I conceive that they are under a great mistake; and with due consideration to the opinions of many judicious and learned persons, I shall take the liberty, Mr. Editor, of giving my reasons for thinking differently, through the medium of your journal.

In the first place, I conceive that the mistake arises from a misconception of the cause which produces the effect. The cause of the robust constitutions is not accustoming themselves to go thinly clad, but the cause of their being able to go thinly clad is the robust constitutions. Those who try to harden themselves, because, as they suppose, others are hardened, are too apt not to reflect that the quantity of clothing that is necessary for different individuals, depends in a great measure on physical circumstances. The principal circumstance which creates a difference in this respect among different

individuals, is, the power of evolving heat; and this exists in very different degrees in different bodies. It is necessary, in order that the functions of the human body should be well performed, that a due proportion of animal heat should be constantly maintained; and this is to be regulated by the quantity of clothing that is worn. As cold weather approaches, the same individual requires more clothing in proportion to his want of power to evolve heat. Now some persons are of such warm temperament that they do not require much additional clothing in order to keep up a due proportion of animal heat. Such persons may safely brave a freezing day with little or no more clothing than they would wear in a moderately cold day, while others would catch a fatal sickness by following their example,—and for this reason: their constitutions are naturally so strong, the circulation of the blood is so vigorous, and the evolution of heat, therefore, is so abundant, that these persons would actually be uncomfortably warm with any additional clothing. But, it must be remembered, this is not the case with all; in fact it is the case with very few. Most men require some additional clothing as the weather grows colder. But one is apt to reason thus: "I am blessed with a robust constitution; I am never troubled with colds, neither with any kind of sickness; I can wet my feet again and again without the least inconvenience, and I am resolved on the strength of this to harden myself the following winter to the cold; and to begin, I will throw off my great coat." A most noble as well as a most sage resolution indeed! But I would inform this person that his being able to endure cold does not solely depend on the strength of his constitution. There are other circumstances which have a much greater share than this in producing what is called *hardiness*. It almost wholly depends on the

readiness of the system for generating heat, and on the natural vigor of the arterial system.

But I shall be asked,—"how are we to know, then, how much clothing we need? You talk about the evolution of heat, and the vigor of the system—it is as good as Greek to us. How shall we know—shall we carry a thermometer about with us to measure the heat of our bodies?" Have a little patience, and I will tell you. My answer is short and simple. Let each one judge from his own feelings. So long as a man can walk abroad comfortably without a great coat, he is perfectly safe in doing it. But so soon as he begins to feel chilly and cold, his feelings warn him that he needs more clothing, and he must obey the warning. Some persons never feel cold except in their hands and feet: such persons should wear mittens and warm socks. Some suffer from cold in the head: such should wear warm hats or fur caps, though I am far from approving of fur caps generally, but rather consider them injurious to health; still I believe some people require them. If the body suffers from cold, a great coat or cloak should be worn. Every one, therefore, can judge for himself how much clothing he needs. And when we see people wrapped up with handkerchiefs, cloaks and coats, we have no just reason to laugh at and to ridicule them, for we know not but that they actually require this degree of clothing to maintain the due degree of animal heat. Professional men, and other men of sedentary habits, require much more clothing generally than busy, bustling, merchants; and they again require more than common laborers, and females require more than males.

In the second place, many people have a mistaken notion of *habit*. They lay, in my opinion, much too great stress on it. I know that the power of resisting heat and cold is much influenced by habit—for it is

in this respect like every other function of the human body. But many have a notion that they can endure almost any degree of cold by accustoming themselves to it, and on the strength of this they will buffet the cold and brave all weathers without any additional protection to their body. But they are mistaken, and they soon find themselves so. They find that they grow weak, and feeble, and tender, and languid, contrary to their expectation, and they are amazed and confounded. They complain of tender constitutions, whereas in nine times out of ten their strong constitutions have been undermined by this very treatment. Now there is nothing so astonishing, after all, in this. And what I would observe, is, that when a man would acquire a *habit*, it is not to be acquired at once, for that would be in direct contradiction to the definition of the word habit. But when a habit is to be acquired, it must be done gradually. Therefore, the *habit* of enduring cold must be acquired in this manner.

But I shall be referred to the inhabitants of Russia and of Lapland, who are inured to bear almost any degree of cold, and of the former of whom we are told, that the women will stand rinsing their clothes through holes in the ice, five or six hours together, often barefooted, with their hands constantly in the water, and their "draggled petticoats" stiff with ice. But, it must be remembered, that in these cold climates the weather is uncommonly uniform, at least so much so that the inhabitants know when the coldest weather is coming, and are taught to provide for it by Nature, who has furnished them with the means by clothing their animals with the warmest coverings, which the natives of the cold climates, more wise than many of their more civilized brethren, convert to the purpose of keeping themselves comfortable, without regard to fashion or appear-

ance. Besides, they are inured to bear cold from their infancy. There, as soon as a child can walk, he is tumbling about on the snow and ice. Here, the case is different. It will not do for us to expose our children while they are young to the cruel blasts of our cold winters, and for this reason: our summers are so long and warm, that the oldest of us become tender before the winter comes on, so that to get hardened, we must begin anew every autumn. Besides, I believe that every one who considers the subject faithfully, will discover that there are not only little or no advantages in hardening one's self, but that, on the contrary, there are serious disadvantages in the attempt.

But, thirdly, I am further confirmed in my opinion of the injurious practice of hardening one's self, by referring to philosophy. When one goes into the cold, the action of the blood-vessels is always weakened and diminished. This is rendered peculiarly obvious when an individual leaves a warm room to go into the cold air without. Now if this be the case, it is evident to every reasonable and judicious person, that when a man leaves a warm room, at which time his blood is always in vigorous circulation, to go to a cooler one, or into the cold air without, it is evident that he *needs* some additional raiment beside his hat and gloves in order to keep up a proper circulation of the blood; unless he is to be directly engaged in some brisk bodily exertion. And so soon as he rests from this exertion he should apply some additional clothing.

I say, if it be the case that by going into the cold the action of the bloodvessels is weakened. And that this is the case, may be determined from each one's own observations, if he will but take the trouble to observe. Any one may observe for himself that his pulsations, particularly those at the wrist, are much

enfeebled on exposure to the cold; in fact, if the cold be extreme, they can scarcely be felt to exert any action; and this, because the circulation is enfeebled. We frequently see people coming into the house from intense cold, with their extremities, particularly the nose and ears, of a bluish color. Now this is an evident sign that these persons *need*, I say that they actually *need*, more clothing. For the cause of this appearance is as follows: The venous blood, when one is exposed to cold, is enfeebled and retarded in its circulation. And by thus being checked and prevented from meeting its destination, the heart, it is unable to circulate through the lungs for the purpose of performing the chemical operation of depositing its carbon into the atmospheric air which is inhaled into the lungs. It is, therefore, not converted into arterial or red blood. For the color of the venous blood is bluish or purple, because it has not discharged its carbon. This color is, therefore, retained, and shows itself through the capillary vessels, and gives the skin a bluish tinge. And this is soon dispelled by approaching the fire, and giving the system heat sufficiently to carry on the circulation vigorously again. But suppose instead of this, a person should continue walking in an extremely cold day; the consequence would be, that before he would be aware of it, the circulation would not only be partially, but wholly interrupted, and the result would be that those parts which were before only blue, would now be actually frozen! and, perhaps, mortification would take place. And the poor hardened man becomes ten times more tender than ever. And now he must always go out in cold weather, with great coat and cloak, handkerchiefs, mittens, and fur cap. And all this trouble might have been saved by exercising a little prudence at first.

Finally, I will repeat that this *hardening one's self*, as it is improper-

ly termed, is a dangerous experiment to try. And even when tried, and successful, is useless. Our climate is variable. People cannot, therefore, expect to be able to wear the same clothing the year round, and yet be able to support life with any tolerable degree of comfort. People of judgment always will suit their dress to the climate under which they have been placed. When we are liable to have sudden changes of weather, we should calculate before we leave the house on these changes; and prepare our dress accordingly. But in this climate we are commonly safe in wearing nearly the same articles of clothing through *all* our coldest weather, provided we have made the requisite changes when the cold first appeared. But as soon as any *material* change occurs in the weather, then we should make corresponding changes in our clothing.

I have, already, Mr. Editor, taken up so much room, and so much more than I intended when I sat down to write, that I feel myself obliged to stop here, though a great deal more might be written on this subject. I will conclude, therefore, with this single observation, that I believe many a robust, active, strong, and hearty man, by trying to inure himself to cold, has unwittingly laid the foundation of sickness, infirmities, disease—Consumption.

PHYSIOLOGUS.

This essay, so far as it relates to the necessity and benefit of suitable clothing in cold weather, we think just and valuable. There can be no doubt that some robust men have unnecessarily and imprudently exposed themselves to cold, and thus made themselves sick. Now it is no part of common prudence or of medical science, to invite the strong to run needless risks, merely for the sake of deciding the hazardous point

how much clothing can be borne with impunity.

There is no more discretion in this sort of folly and hardihood, than there would be in a civil ruler's trying the experiment, how far he could wantonly exercise his authority without producing an opposition and reaction from his subjects, which would overwhelm him. Let the firm rejoice in their strength, use it reasonably, and continue the means of preserving it. As to the practicability and usefulness of hardening one's self, that is, of the means of rendering ourselves, in some good degree, capable of bearing without injury, the influence of the common atmospheric changes, we disagree entirely, from our correspondent. Every

thing conduces to this hardening or immunity, which conduces to good health. Regular and proper meals, sufficient exercise in the open air, with the requisite intervals of rest, and sleep, are all highly conducive to this very important end, as well as suitable clothing. Our friend has wholly overlooked one very important and successful means of lessening tenderness, and increasing our capability of bearing without injury, the hurtful tendency of cold, wet, &c. I mean the general and local application of cold water; and this practice may, without the smallest chance of injury, be adopted in the warm season, and in the proper manner, by any person in tolerable health.

NATURE.

How beautiful and how sublime in all her works
Is Nature! In glory, power, beneficence, the image of her God.
Well might the morning stars have sung for joy,
When chaos and confusion were transformed
To order and to beauty; when heaven's high arch arose,
In splendor and sublimity; bearing in its azure hues
Of light and glory, the stamp of power divine;
When beauteous forms adorn'd creation's face,
And all seem'd grand, and lovely, and sublime.

The songsters of the vale now carol forth
Their hymn of gratitude and praise; now mother earth
Deck'd with the rich and various hues
Of flowering shrubs and trees, diffusing all their sweet
And grateful verdure; while the feeling heart
Which oft does think on Nature and her God,
Sees in these various forms of beauty, love and joy,
The hand of an eternal power; which, by resistless might,
Chang'd what was once all nothingness and void,
To worlds of happiness and joy and life.

Where nature smiles, there all is beautiful indeed;
How various are her lovely forms! The simple flower
That droops its modest head; the lofty oak
That has for ages weather'd the fierce storm,
And still uprears its venerable head, calm and serene,
The mighty cataract, the gently flowing stream,
Are hers.

Oft let us think on these, O Father ;
 " And to the beautiful order of thy works,
 Learn to conform the order of our lives." — *Centinel.*

LINES WRITTEN IN A CHURCHYARD.

" It is good for us to be here ; If thou wilt, let us make three tabernacles, one for Thee, one for Moses, and one for Elias."

METHINKS it is good to be here,
 If thou wilt, let us build ; but to whom ?
 Nor Elias nor Moses appear,
 But the shadows of eve that encompass the gloom,
 The abode of the dead and the place of the tomb.

Shall we build to *Ambition* ? O, no !
 Affrighted he shrinketh away ;
 For see, they would pin him below,
 In a small narrow cave, and begirt with cold clay,
 To the meanest of reptiles a peer and a prey.

To *Beauty* ? Ah, no ! she forgets
 The charms which she wielded before ;
 Nor knows the foul *worm* that he frets
 The skin which but yesterday fools could adore,
 For the smoothness it held, and the tint which it wore.

Shall we build to the purple of *Pride*,
 The trappings which dizen the proud ?
 Alas ! they are all laid aside ;
 And here 's neither dress nor adornment allow'd,
 But the long windingsheet and the fringe of the shroud.

To *Riches* ? Alas ! 'tis in vain,
 Who hid, in their turns have been hid ;
 The treasures are squander'd again.
 And here in the grave are all metals forbid
 But the tinsel which shone on the dark coffin lid.

To the pleasures which *Mirth* can afford ?
 The revel, the laugh, and the jeer ?
 Ah ! here is a plentiful board,
 But the guests are all mute as their pitiful cheer,
 And none but the worm is a reveller here.

Shall we build to *Affection and Love* ?
 Ah, no ! they have wither'd and died,
 Or fled with the spirit above.
 Friends, brothers, and sisters, are laid side by side,
 Yet none have saluted, and none have replied.

Unto *Sorrow* ? The dead cannot grieve.
 Not a sob, not a sigh meets mine ear,
 Which compassion itself could relieve :
 Ah, sweetly they slumber, nor hope, love, nor fear,
 Peace, peace is the watchword, the only one here.

Unto Death, to whom monarchs must bow ?
 Ah, no ! for his empire is known,
 And here there are trophies enow.
 Beneath, the cold dead—and around, the dark stone,
 Are the signs of a sceptre that none may disown.

The first tabernacle to HOPE we will build,
 And look for the sleepers around us to rise !
 The second to FARTH, which ensures it fulfill'd ;
 And the third to the LAMB of the great sacrifice,
 Who bequeath'd us them both, when he rose to the skies.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, FEB. 13, 1827.

We feel obliged for some commendatory remarks on this paper in a late *Evening Gazette*, but must beg leave to dissent from the opinion of the writer of the article. He says, the most suitable motto for the Medical Intelligencer would be, "Every man his own Doctor." Now this idea is so remote from the character and intentions of this journal, that it is the last motto we should be inclined to adopt. We have two insurmountable objections to the scheme of making every man his own doctor; the first is, its impracticability, for any purpose excepting that of prevention; and the second is, because the attempt could not be made without proving injurious. There is already in society far too much of this dosing and quacking of one's self. Hence it is that the discoverers of *Patent Medicines* find it for their interest to keep the public prints and the apothecaries' shops full of these drugs, that their own pockets may be furnished with cash, and the indiscriminate and eager appetite of the weak and credulous be amply supplied with what they are made to believe is essential to their relief and restoration.

Whoever attempts to make every man his own physician, will be much more likely to make every man his own patient, than to do anything better. As to the means of preserving health where it exists, and the prevention of disease, this information should be possessed, or aimed at by all; it should constitute a part of general education. Men traverse the whole globe to ascertain the history of various plants and animals, and the means of transplanting and preserving them, and this may well reward their toil. But how poorly would these students and explorers of nature be qualified to accomplish the objects of their enterprise, perilous and exposed as it often is, without any means or capacity to foresee, prevent or repair any accident or derangement which might happen to their own systems. And yet many an ardent naturalist has set forth on these glowing excursions, full of every thought and preparation for the labors, risks and privations before them, excepting the means and methods of taking care of themselves. Many lives, promising much for the public ornament and use, have thus been lost. These adventurers have at one time risked more than was necessary,—at another, they have

been wholly incapable of providing against the effects of unavoidable exposure and fatigue. The only rational objection, however, to a man's being his own physician is, that he does not, or cannot, or will not prepare himself to be such.

If any one will but take care to treat his own case understandingly, and will go no further nor faster than he can go with safety, and with as good a chance of success as the physician, why should he not prescribe and administer for himself, instead of trusting others to do for him what he can as well do for himself? There may too be occasions and situations in which it may be incumbent on individuals, as far as may be, to qualify themselves to direct medicines in sickness,—as in long voyages at sea, a residence in new and thinly settled portions of a country, and wherever else medical aid cannot be had. But wherever the medical profession is what it everywhere ought to be, and the physician can be had, his neighbor will act more wisely to confine his reading, observation and efforts to the formation of those habits, and the observance of that course of living, which are best adapted to improve feeble health, and to retain in perfection that which is already perfect.

To aid the well in discharging their duties to themselves,—parents to their children, and the physician to his patients, comprises a field of thought and action sufficiently broad for our industry and ambition, and we should think ourselves quite fortunate if it were not too broad to be

successfully cultivated by our limited resources.

NEW MODE OF MAKING JELLY.

Press the juice from the fruit: add the proper portion of sugar, and stir the juice and sugar till the sugar is completely melted; and, in twenty-four hours, it will become of a proper consistence. By this means the trouble of boiling is avoided, and the jelly retains more completely the flavor of the fruit. Care should be taken to stir the mixture till the sugar is completely melted, and fine sugar should be used.

READING.

The pleasure of reading without application is a dangerous pleasure. Useless books we ought to lay aside, and to make all possible advantage of those from which we may reap some fruit.—*Crousat.*

THE BLESSINGS OF LABOR.

Why should I now, my love, complain,
That toils await the cheerful swain?
Since labor oft a sweet bestows,
Which lazy splendor never knows.

Hence springs the purple tide of health,
The rich man's wish, the poor man's
wealth,
And spreads those blushings o'er the face,
Which come and go with native grace.

The pride of dress, the pomp of show,
Are trappings oft that cover woe;
But we whose wishes never roam,
Shall taste of real joys at home.

DICTIONARY.

Icterus, the jaundice.

Subcutaneous cellular tissue, the cellular membrane; this weblike texture is full of cells, and is the connecting medium of every part of the body.

Tinea capitis, the scaldhead, characterized by small ulcers at the roots of the hairs of the head, producing a friable white scab.

Tic douloureux, a painful affection of the nerves of the face.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

BREWER & BROTHERS.

THE Copartnership heretofore existing under the firm of BARTLETT & BREWER, Druggists, was dissolved on the 31st ult.

SAMUEL N. BREWER, the junior partner, having succeeded to the business, has associated himself with his brothers, NATHANIEL BREWER, M.D.—and WILLIAM A. BREWER, who has been six years in the store. They will continue the business of Druggists and Apothecaries, at the old stand, Sign of the Good Samaritan, No. 92, Washington Street, under the firm of SAMUEL N. BREWER & BROTHERS, and promising every possible attention to their business, respectfully solicit patronage.

SAMUEL N. BREWER,
NATHANIEL BREWER,
WILLIAM A. BREWER.

Boston, January 1, 1827.

DR. PARSONS, SURGEON DENTIST,
NO. 17, WINTER STREET,

DE VOTES himself to OPERATIONS ON THE TEETH, and to the treatment of such diseases as usually fall to the department of the Dentist. Dr. P. has for many years given his particular attention to the construction of Artificial Teeth, either in entire sets, or in parts of sets; and is enabled to secure them in such a manner that they will be firm, durable, and useful.

SAILOR'S PHYSICIAN.

RICHARDSON & LORD have been appointed by the proprietors agents for the sale of "SAILOR'S PHYSICIAN, containing Medical Advice for Seamen and other persons at Sea, on the Treatment of Diseases, and on the preservation of Health in sickly climates. By Usher Parsons, M. D., formerly of the United States Navy—2d edition."

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber informs the Public that he has recently enlarged his accommodations for Insane Persons, and feels confident that he can now render suitable attention to all classes and characters of this description. He has devoted for ten years past, much of his time and study to this part of medical science,—and his past success induces him to con-

tinue his attention to this branch of medical practice.

The beauty of the natural scenery of this place, the salubrity of the atmosphere and the purity of the water, are equal to any in the State.—Thus the place is very favorable to all kinds of exercise, which is a very important aid in the treatment of diseases affecting the mind.

He will, as formerly, accommodate and attend to the wants and calls of other patients, and to surgical operations.

NEHEMIAH CUTTER, M. D.

Pepperell, Ms. Jan. 8, 1827.

MEDICAL RECORDER, No. 37.

THE publication of No. 37 of the Medical Recorder will be delayed a few days, with a view to add, as additional matter, a communication addressed to Judge Parker, by Dr. Warren. Considering that the above communication embraced much valuable practical information on Dislocations, also on Jurisprudence, a letter was addressed to Dr. Warren requesting permission to reprint the same in the Recorder, which has been politely granted.

Among the papers in No. 37, will appear the following, namely;—Prize Essay on Hemorrhage, by Dr. Jameson; Dr. Hewson's interesting case of Umbilical Hernia; Dr. Watson on Sarcocoele; Dr. M'Caw on Necrosis; Dr. Dow on Anomalous Bilious Fever; Dr. Briggs on the Functions of the Liver; Dr. Archer on Consumption; Dr. Wardrop on Ophthalmia; Dr. Hamilton on the Extraction of Calculus; Dr. Stephens on Erysipelas; Dr. Pitcairn on Empyema; Dr. Brown on Gastritis, and Mr. Gardette on the Teeth.

Among the reviews of late publications will be an interesting analytical review of a new work on Dental Surgery, by Dr. Keoker, formerly of Philadelphia, now of London.

The publications in the Recorder and other Journals in relation to the Diseases of Natchez, &c. will be fairly discussed; by which it will be perceived that the Essays published in the Recorder are strictly correct, notwithstanding the attempts to make them appear otherwise.

The departments of Analysis of American and Foreign Journals, Analecta, and Medical Intelligence, will give the new and important medical information of the day. RICHARDSON & LORD, Agents, Boston.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1827.

NO. 40.

DR. CLUTTERBUCK'S LECTURE ON INFLAMMATION OF THE LIGAMENTOUS STRUCTURE.

Under the denomination *ligamentous system*, I include the ligaments and capsules surrounding the joints, together with the tendons and tendinous aponeuroses, or *fasciæ* covering the muscles; to which, perhaps, ought to be added the *periosteum*. Some have considered the *dura mater* of the brain, the *pericardium*, and even the *sclerotic coat* of the eye, as belonging to this order of parts, and liable to similar states of disease. Whether this is properly done, I shall not attempt to decide. It is, however, to the ligaments connecting the bones together and forming the different joints, and to what is termed the tendinous aponeurosis or *fascia* covering the different muscles, and perhaps to the tendons themselves, that my present observations are intended to be confined.

Ligamentous structure of the nature now alluded to, exists pretty extensively throughout the body, but is particularly abundant in certain parts; as

over the loins, down the external part of the thigh, at the back of the neck, and covering the temporal muscles. This structure has some physiological peculiarities that require notice, as they materially influence its diseases and their treatment,

Compared with other parts, the ligamentous structure is but sparingly supplied with bloodvessels, few if any being visible in a healthy state, though under inflammation they become conspicuous and numerous. These parts likewise are endowed with but little sensibility in health, very few nerves being supplied to them; some, indeed, judging from this insensibility, have doubted whether they possessed any nerves. This doubt however appears to be removed by the high degree of feeling they acquire under inflammation, and by which they become the seat often of very severe suffering.

This structure, like every other, is susceptible of inflammation, which has several peculiarities, which serve to distinguish it from other inflam-

mations and which materially influence the treatment. These peculiarities it is important you should attend to.

In the first place, ligamentous inflammation is not attended with much swelling of the part, which arises from the great density of the structure not allowing of much effusion into the interstices of the part. It is true that a good deal of swelling often attends these inflammations; but this is owing to the extension of the inflammation into the surrounding cellular texture.

2dly. Inflammation frequently exists in this order of parts, for a great length of time, without either going into suppuration, or otherwise changing the structure. Often, however, it induces a degree of rigidity and inflexibility, the consequence, for the most part, of adhesions taking place in the surrounding cellular membrane.

3dly. Inflammation in parts of this description, is very apt to shift its seat, and this often very suddenly: generally, it is from one part to another of similar structure, and which occurs with respect to parts very remotely situated from each other. This is what you are to understand by the term *metastasis*.

Lastly, ligamentous inflammation is difficult of cure, as compared with many other in-

flammations; but, as some compensation for this, it bears almost all kinds of treatment with impunity, and then goes off at last spontaneously, the disease seeming, as it were, to wear itself out.

The general term applied to ligamentous inflammation is *rheumatism*, the import of which, however, has no reference to the real nature of the disease, and is therefore one among almost innumerable instances of improper nomenclature in medicine. The disease termed the *gout* or *podagra*, is also essentially an inflammation of ligamentous structure; but this has so many peculiarities that distinguish it from rheumatism, and which extend to the treatment, that it has generally been considered in the light of a specific disease; at all events, it requires a separate consideration. I shall speak first of *rheumatism*, one of the most frequent, as well as most painful diseases; seldom dangerous in itself, though it occasionally gives rise to other diseases that prove fatal, as I shall hereafter show you.

To proceed then methodically; *rheumatism* may be defined an inflammation of the ligamentous structure connected with the different joints, and covering the muscles attached to them. In its simplest form it is characterized

by few and these unimportant symptoms without any derangement of the general health. On many occasions, however, it gives rise, like other general inflammations, to great general disorder, being attended with a high degree of symptomatic fever, as it is called, and this in a higher degree than in perhaps any other disease.

Simple rheumatism often begins with a sense of coldness, and with paleness of the skin covering the part affected. The joint becomes stiff, and gives pain on motion. The pain follows the tract of the muscles, and is generally of an obtuse kind. These few symptoms are, in reality, all that are necessary to constitute the disease. It is often confined to a particular part, and named accordingly; as *lumbago*, when seated in the loins; and *sciatica*, in the hip: in other parts it has had no distinct appellation bestowed on it. The *deltoid muscle* of the arm is a frequent seat of the disease. In some of these cases, the pain is very acute, especially when the muscles about the part are put into action. This is the case in *lumbago* more particularly; and appears to be owing to the muscles being thrown into a state of temporary spasm. Sometimes the affection is more general, producing an almost universal feeling of

soreness and stiffness over the body. Rheumatism, when thus mild and limited in extent, and without general disorder, has been often termed *chronic*, in order to distinguish it from the more violent forms of the disease, which have been called *acute*. But the term *chronic*, as implying long duration, is not applicable to most of these, as they often go off after a few days or even less. Sometimes, however, the disease is protracted for several months or even years, varying much with times and seasons. Such really chronic cases gradually lessen the power of motion in the joint, and the muscles waste, and degenerate, as it were, into a paralytic state.

Sometimes there is considerable swelling, with redness of the skin and more severe pain; but still without inducing *pyrexia*, or a febrile state of the system. This, by way of distinction, has been called the *acute rheumatism*. But when *pyrexia* arises, with quickness of pulse and great increase of heat, the disease has been called *rheumatic fever*. The disease in all these cases is radically the same: they differ merely in degree, and there are all the gradations between them.

The progress and duration of rheumatism, are exceedingly different at different times. Many slight cases continue on-

ly a few days and go off again, like a *common cold*. Others are protracted for months or even years, as I before remarked, when of course the term *chronic* applies with strict propriety. The most important variety of the disease is that which is termed *rheumatic fever*, the term *fever*, however, merely serving to express the general febrile action that is taking place, and which is symptomatic as in other inflammations. The severity and occasionally the danger of this, makes it deserving of further attention.

Rheumatic fever, as it is called, frequently begins with coldness and shivering, which are soon followed by heat, and this by sweating. The febrile symptoms are modified in some degree by the habit of the patient, and the duration of the disease. In strong subjects, the heat is greater, the sweatings more profuse, and the pulse is fuller and stronger, than in any other inflammation. The frequency of pulse, however, is not proportionably great. The blood, when drawn, is more highly buffed and cupped, than in other inflammation. The tongue is covered with a white instead of a brownish fur; and there is, in ordinary cases, no headache or disturbance of the sensorial functions. By these last mentioned signs, you

may distinguish *rheumatic* from *idiopathic* or brain fever; though the two are occasionally found in combination, each marked by its appropriate signs.

With respect to the *local* symptoms, which are the cause of the general disorder of system just described, the pain in the affected parts is often very severe, and is attended with much swelling and redness of the skin, and tenderness to the touch. These arise from the inflammation spreading from the ligamentous structure, to the surrounding parts. When the inflammation has continued for a few days in any particular part, it commonly begins to decline, but a similar train of symptoms appears in some other part, and follows a similar course. Thus, as an example, after one hand and wrist have been affected in the manner mentioned, the other will be seized; then perhaps the elbow, and, in succession, the shoulders, feet, knees, loins, &c.; till, in its turn, almost every part of the body where ligamentous structure exists, participates in the disease. And it not unfrequently happens, that when it has thus seemingly run its course, it renews its attack on one or more of the parts that had previously suffered, by which its duration altogether is greatly pro-

longed. This is much more likely to happen if the inflammation is quickly taken off from any part by local means; such as leeches, but especially if cold applications are made use of: but where the inflammation in any part is allowed to run its course, such a recurrence seldom happens. It seems as if in the former case, the diseased *action* only was removed, the *disposition* remaining behind; whereas, in the latter, the disposition appears to be worn out by the continuance for a certain time of the inflammatory action. In this way, the disease is often protracted for eight or ten or twelve weeks, when it gradually declines; sometimes going off entirely, at others leaving the local symptoms behind, though in a mitigated form; and thus the *acute* disease lays the foundation for the *chronic*.

The *pyrexia*, or general febrile state of body, continues to accompany the local affection; but after a time, as perhaps three or four weeks, it assumes a remittent form, being aggravated towards evening and through the night, when the sweating is the most profuse. The pain and other local symptoms follow a similar course.

In weak and irritable habits, and also when the disease is long protracted, the pulse becomes frequent, hard, and

small; there is considerable depression of the general strength, and much irregularity in the state of various functions, such as I described to you in detail when speaking of the effects of inflammation on the system.

Terminations. — Rheumatism, in a great proportion of instances, goes off entirely without injury to the structure, and this though it may have continued for a great length of time. But sometimes, in consequence of adhesions taking place, and the deposition of coagulable lymph, stiffness, and rigidity of the parts remain, by which motion is impaired. Suppuration is a rare occurrence, both because ligamentous structure is not much disposed to this change, and perhaps because the inflammation that occasionally takes place in the surrounding cellular membrane, is seldom in a sufficient degree for such a purpose.

I have thus given you, gentlemen, the general character of rheumatism, in its ordinary and legitimate form. But sometimes it attacks, or rather induces inflammation, in other parts of greater importance to life, and thus is liable to become dangerous, though in itself it can hardly be so considered. For the most part, it is in structures approaching somewhat to the ligamentous,

that inflammation is observed to arise during the course of rheumatism. The *periosteum* is one of these; and hence those aching pains in the bones which patients often complain of. The *pericardium* is another part that frequently becomes inflamed during rheumatism, and which is denoted by pain in the region of the heart, and great disorder in the action of this organ. The inflammation thus excited, continues in many cases after the rheumatism has disappeared; and in this way originate many chronic affections of the heart.

Sometimes the brain or its membranes suffer, the signs of inflammation in this organ presenting themselves, such as severe headache, and often delirium, which now and then prove quickly fatal. The lungs or pleura, or both, still more frequently suffer, a considerable number of cases of acute rheumatism being attended in their course with evident signs of pulmonic inflammation. These cases of inflammation arising accidentally during the course of rheumatism, have been considered and called rheumatism of the heart—of the brain—and of the lungs; and even the sclerotic coat of the eye has been supposed to be the seat of rheumatism at times, and the term *rheumatic ophthalmia*

has been used to designate it. But I much question the propriety of considering these cases as real rheumatism: while the mistake, if it be one, is productive of practical mischief, by suggesting the notion that such cases do not require to be treated like common inflammation, which however is quite contrary to my experience; as I shall have occasion to state further to you, when speaking of the treatment of the disease.

Causes.—The general exciting causes of rheumatism in all its forms, is *exposure to cold*, the application and effect of which are in general so direct and obvious, as not to be mistaken. In fact, we have no certain knowledge of any others. *Syphilitic pains* are indeed liable to be confounded at times with those of genuine rheumatism, and can only be distinguished by inquiring into all the circumstances of the case, by which its real nature may generally be discovered.

As with respect to many other diseases, the operation of the cause is much influenced by *predisposition*, which is in some individuals constitutional, and even hereditary; when this exists, the disease will be readily produced by any ordinary exposure to cold. The disposition to this disease is also influenced by season and weather. Thus it is most fre-

quent in the spring, and especially when long easterly winds prevail. At such times, the disease may be said to be epidemic.

Nature of Rheumatism.—I have already told you that this disease consists in inflammation of the ligamentous structure, and there is no reason to believe the inflammation to be different in nature from common inflammation as it appears in other parts. The difference in character and in treatment, is owing to the difference in structure, and the different laws by which this structure is governed.

Prognosis.—In itself, rheumatism, though a disease of great suffering, can hardly be said to be attended with danger, though it sometimes proves fatal in the way of *metastasis*, that is, by giving rise to inflammation in other parts of importance to life. I think I have observed that the secondary inflammations thus produced are more easily removed by art, than when taking place as primary diseases. Where there is so general a disposition to inflammation in the system, it appears to have the effect of lessening the disposition in particular parts.

Treatment of Rheumatism.—Not only are the symptoms of inflammation different, but its general course and treatment likewise, are much modified

by the nature and functions of the part affected: and hence the necessity of considering inflammation in all its forms and varieties, in order to successful practice. This you will find to be the case in regard to our present subject, and it applies still more strongly to the case of cerebral inflammation, as we shall see when we come to the investigation of what is called *idiopathic* fever. From what I have now said, you will not be surprised to learn that the proper treatment of rheumatism is a distinct point of inquiry, not to be altogether determined by the case of other inflammations.

Now the treatment of rheumatism is different under different circumstances; and we shall best understand the subject, by again adverting to the division before pointed out, into the simple state of the disease, where the affection is local and partial in extent, and that where it is attended with *pyrexia* or general disorder of system, or what is termed *rheumatic fever*.

Slight and recent rheumatic affections either subside of themselves, or require only the treatment of a common cold, as a moderate degree of abstinence, or at most the exhibition of a mild sudorific. The severer affections of the sort, such as *lumbago* or *sciatica*,

are so painful, and so incapacitate the patient for all exertion, as to demand a more active practice. If the patient is vigorous, *bloodletting* once or twice, and that to a pretty considerable amount, is of decided advantage, and adds much to the efficacy of our other remedies. In weak persons, *bloodletting* may be dispensed with. *Counterirritation* of various kinds, general or local, are next to be employed. *Sudorifics*, as the hot-bath, camphor and opium, the ammonia, and various other active *stimulants*, come under the former head. Active vomiting and purging conduce to the same end. I have often succeeded in relieving lumbago, by half a grain of the *elaterium*, which generally excites both vomiting and purging, following it by opium in the dose of a grain or two. Warm fomentations to the loins, blisters, and stimulating liniments, are likewise all of use in a greater or less degree.

Lumbago is liable to be confounded with *nephritic* affections; but a little attention will enable you to distinguish between them: you have only to recollect the diagnostic signs of nephritis and of renal calculi; the distinction then is sufficiently easy. So when the ligamentous structure about the hip joint is the seat of rheumatism, the great ischia-

tic nerve is apt to be involved in the inflammation. It then frequently happens, that the only pain the patient complains of, is about the knee or the ankle. In this case, it is a question whether our topical applications are best made at the origin of the disease at the hip joint, or at the part where the pain is situated? Blistering, for example, the knee or ankle? I am inclined to the latter opinion, though it is difficult to determine the point satisfactorily.

In the really *chronic* form of rheumatism, which is sometimes left after the acute disease, but which also often arises almost imperceptibly, the pain is not violent, but constant, and is increased both by warmth and motion at first, but grows easier after a time. The limbs become stiff, and the muscles waste, partly perhaps from want of use. In some instances, the hands become useless from the enlargement of the joints, —*nodosity* as it has been called,—and their subsequent contraction. These chronic states of rheumatism are best relieved by the warm bath, by stimulants of the most powerful kind, such as ammonia and the guaiacum in large doses, and the oil of turpentine. Camphor with opium, and other sudorifics, are likewise of service. Along with these, local agents are not to be neglected,

as fomentations, stimulating liniments, leeches, if there should be heat or swelling of the part, and electricity moderately applied. *Mercury* taken internally will sometimes do good, and *arsenic* has often succeeded where other means have failed. The *colchicum* has of late obtained much celebrity in these cases, and, I believe, deservedly so; but I question its utility, and even its safety, when largely administered in the acute state of the disease.

These are the chief means of cure in the local and chronic forms of rheumatism, and which you are to apply according to your judgment, and the particular circumstances of the case.

A Dissertation on the Prophylactic Management of Infancy and Early Childhood. Read before the Massachusetts Medical Society, at their Annual Meeting, June 7, 1826. By J. H. FLINT.

The purpose of Dr. Flint in selecting the subject of this discourse, seems to have been to call the attention of physicians to the proper management and physical education of infants and children, and in doing this we think the writer has been judicious, and that his dissertation was seasonable and will be useful. In many little particulars, respecting the early treatment of infants, highly important to their wellbeing, medical men are too apt to undervalue and disregard them, and to refer them to the mother or nurse, both

of whom are, generally speaking, quite unequal to the office thus improperly assigned them. We are so uncharitable, too, as to apprehend that ignorance and indolence, and unfaithfulness in the discharge of professional duty, all have a blameable influence over the physician's conduct in this particular instance. We extract a few pages from the discourse, which we hope will induce parents generally to read it for themselves.

It has been computed that "one fourth of those who are born die before the age of five years." This disproportioned mortality is usually ascribed to the peculiar "irritability and sensibility" of infancy and early childhood, predisposing it to the ravages of acute diseases.

However plausible, and at first view satisfactory, may be this explanation, it is a fact that the young of all other animals, in a natural state, are comparatively vigorous and healthy. And making every allowance for diseases incident to the human family alone, still it will be found, I apprehend, that most of the disorders of early life, and many of those which occur at a later period, derive their origin from mismanagement. And just in proportion as the laws of Nature are violated, and her plain and salutary requisitions neglected or disregarded, is this peculiar "irritability and sensibility" fatally developed. It has been justly remarked "that when mismanagement in infancy does not actually destroy life, it often very essentially impairs the health,—the foundation of a future good or bad constitution being frequently laid at this period."

The prophylactic management of infancy and early childhood, consists in a proper regulation of the *dress*, *diet* and *exercise*.

The skin, from its continuous and relative sympathies, may be consi-

dered a vital organ. Reflected, it constitutes the mucous membranes, which accounts for its important connexion with the respiratory and digestive functions. And through the medium of the nerves, with which it is so largely endowed, it sympathises with all the other vital organs. As we advance in age, the skin becomes more and more firm—but it is not till about the thirtieth year that it acquires its greatest power of resistance to the impression of external stimuli. During this whole period, but more especially in infancy, when the cutaneous susceptibility is the strongest, so far as the functions of the skin exert an influence on other organs important in the economy of health, an equable excitement should be preserved by a careful adaptation of the dress to the natural succession of seasons, and other causes of injurious excitement which the customs of society have so greatly multiplied.

"If during the greater part of life the skin be so fruitful a source of disease, and the various alterations it experiences produce so frequent disorders in the internal organs, it is only owing to the varied causes of excitement to which it is every instant subjected." Here allow me to remark that the fashionable attire of the present day gives to the children of opulence no advantage over the "shreds and patches" of poverty. It affords but a *scanty* protection in their frequent transitions from more than tropical heat to hyperborean cold. It is neither a security against the diseases consequent on exposure to alternations of heat and cold; nor the still more fatal ones which are the effect in a great measure, of the enervating heats of summer on the functions of the skin. Unguarded exposure to cold when the body is heated,—or to heat when it is chilled—induce diseases with which we all are familiar, and so speedily as to leave no room to doubt of their cause. The cholera of India, on the

other hand, to which our infantile diseases of the summer months, usually attributed to irregularities and indiscretions in diet, are somewhat analogous, affords the strongest exemplification of the effect of continued heat on the functions of the skin and internal organs sympathising with it. The European who retreats from the scorching rays of a tropical sun to seek repose under his net in the shade, falls a victim to disease; while the native Hindoo who toils all the day, owes his comparative immunity, not so much to a constitution framed to the climate, as to his frequent ablutions and daily unctions of rancid oil. And though the one be a religious rite, and the other an expedient to protect him from swarms of insects, they both combine to preserve an equable excitement in the vessels of the skin.

The sustenance of the infant for nearly the first year of its life should be drawn exclusively from its mother. This is nature's provision; and ordinarily the supply is commensurate to the demand; and for this no artificial combination is an adequate substitute. Nature, too, has wisely placed this secretion beyond the influence of ordinary indisposition; and though there are instances of *real, constitutional* inability, a mother, generally speaking, is competent to perform the kindly offices of nurse. Happily our country women, with but few exceptions, have not arrived at that maximum of refinement which prompts them to alienate their children. And if there be living a female who can unnecessarily and most unnaturally resolve to relinquish the important duties, and to forego the endearing pleasures of a mother, and to abandon her helpless offspring to the carelessness and cupidity of a hireling, she is unworthy the name of a mother.

At the period of ablactation it is only necessary to avoid great and sudden changes in diet. The digestion of the child is rapid, and its calls

for food consequently frequent; and so it be but plain and bland, indulgence may be safely allowed.—Nature unacknowledged seldom errs in her demands; and if the appetite is not pampered, no limits need be set to time or quantity in its gratification.—Contrast, now, these plain and obviously natural rules with the practices which too generally prevail in the management of infancy. From the moment of birth up to the period we are considering, the wailings of infancy are quieted with diffusibles—its clamors are hushed by epicurean indulgencies—and its very smiles are purchased by an enormous tax to the confectioner. Hence follows a long train of functional disorders of the digestive organs, by which, if life is not destroyed, the growth is checked; the constitution is impaired; and very frequently structural disease is superinduced which no art afterwards can remedy; and hence, too, by reverse sympathy, springs a tribe of eruptive diseases so loathsome and so common to early life.

Nor do the evils of early mismanagement in relation to diet stop here. The moralist would follow up consequences to a later period, and tell you that tastes and appetites, vitiated and depraved in the cradle, go on step by step, from year to year, till they terminate, at length, in that most odious, degrading and disgusting of all vices,—and in our country “that pestilence which walketh by noonday”—beastly ineptitude.

The health of the infant depends on the equable evolution and perfect integrity of its several organs—to which exercise of body, both passive and active, greatly conduces. In the first months of existence it must necessarily be passive; but when locomotion is acquired, it may well be left to the buoyancy of infant feeling. The gambols of childhood should rarely be repressed—and when properly clothed and properly fed, it will brave with comparative impunity the most inclement seasons. When

situation or circumstances forbid the indulgence of active exercise abroad, the showerbath, the bathingtub, and the fleshbrush at home will almost compensate for the deprivation.

From the New Harmony Gazette.

GYMNASISTICS.

The object of education is or ought to be, a full developement of the human powers, both physical and mental. An education that cultivates the mental and neglects the bodily powers, or one that cultivates physical force and activity only, and holds in little estimation strength and activity of mind—is but a partial, imperfect, one-sided education, calculated to form only a fraction of a human being.

Man, if he had but one leg, or were deprived of one arm, would be but an inefficient, comparatively useless being: and so he is, too, with but one set of powers, be they physical or mental. The mind assists the body, and the body aids the mind, just as one leg or one arm aids and assists the other. It would be foolish, and every one would acknowledge the folly, to make man hop on one leg instead of walking on two; or to limit the means of executing the various necessary manipulations to one hand; it is little less irrational to restrict the human powers, our only means of support and of happiness, by a half cultivation; but unfortunately the folly is not so easily perceived, and therefore not so readily acknowledged.

There have been periods among savage nations when the bodily powers were cultivated, almost exclusively. Such was the period preceding the annihilation of the Roman Empire, among the Goths and Vandals. And what was the result? These barbarians, advancing in their gigantic strength, crushed the degenerating powers of the former mistress of the world; and buried, in one common ruin, her effeminacy and her civilization. They saw and

despised a race of men weaker in body than themselves; and they equally despised those efforts of mind that had long been the boast of the world, the traces of which they took a savage pleasure in attempting to obliterate for ever. The productions of the arts, of painting, of sculpture, of architecture, the splendid libraries and all the other mighty results of ancient talent, whose very ruins have commanded the extravagant admiration, almost the idolatry, of modern ages—all these the northern hordes swept off in scornful ignorance; for their minds were a void, and they valued them not.

Such again was the period during the darkest ages of the feudal system, when the semblance of mental acquirement that remained was to be found in monasteries only or in convents; when each proud and illiterate noble defied, from behind the broad moat and lofty battlements of his castle, alike all regal and all legal authority.

The good old rule sufficed then, the simple plan,
That they should take who have the power,
and they should keep who can.

Right and might conveyed to their minds one and the same idea: possession for them was *ten tenths* of the law: woman became the property of a lawless and brutal master; her hand was generally obtained by him who could prove his right to it "by the sword, and who generally thought it a superfluous ceremony to consult her inclinations: she had no rights, because hers was the weaker sex, and rights were accorded to power alone.

Such have been the effects produced to the world by a physically developed, mentally neglected character: and, in consequence, the importance of mental cultivation is very generally seen and appreciated.

Other periods have been, when the mental powers were exercised, whether rationally or not we are not now to inquire,—and the bodily

powers unaccountably neglected.— Such a period is the present day. We have academies for Latin and for Greek, colleges for divinity and for medicine, and for law; boarding schools where our sisters and daughters are taught ornamental needle-work and velvetpainting,—all these we have, and some much more useful seminaries too, where we are beginning to teach the certain sciences even to the fair sex, and venturing to consider practical habits, and plain common sense, and a sound temperate judgment, as qualities not to be despised: in a word, our attention has been directed to the development of the human mental powers, and if we *have* often produced but trifling or injurious results, it was in default of knowledge, not of desire to improve, nor because we thought their development useless, nor that we underrated the importance of mind and mental attainments. But the body we have left to take care of itself; there has not been even *the appearance* of attention to the development of its powers, in our public seminaries, except perhaps in the way of dancing.

And we ought not to be surprised at the necessary consequences that result from such a proceeding.— When we find in the world peevish, debilitated bookworms, poring over the dusty pages of antiquity, till continued sedentary habits disable them from enjoying all the active pleasures of life, their very minds affected as it were with a mental dropsy, and gradually becoming too weighty and unwieldy for the weakened limbs to drag along, till "the grasshopper becomes a burden" and till "desire fails"—and then again, when we see some pale delicate fine ladies, sensitive and nervous, morbidly alive to every little subject of petty disagreement, or of imaginary discomfort, absolutely incapable of assisting themselves, much less others, for domestic duties are laborious slavery: unwilling to walk, for it is

fatiguing; fearing to ride, for it is dangerous; afraid of nature's sun, lest his rude beams tinge their lily complexions with the hue of health; avoiding the breath of heaven, for it blows too roughly on their tender frames,—all this ought to afford us no cause for astonishment or speculation. We should have had legitimate cause for surprise, if it had *not* happened, after we have done every thing necessary to promote it.

But though it cannot surprise, it ought to instruct us. We ought to seek a remedy for evils so great and so general as these.

Concluded next week.

INCOMBUSTIBILITY OF WOOD.

It is affirmed that a professor at Munich, of the Academy of Sciences, has discovered a method of rendering wood incombustible. He has combined caustic alkali in solution with a certain earthy substance, washed and sifted, and applied on the wood, to which it gives a nitreous surface, which renders it also impervious to water, and to all kinds of humidity. The Architectural Committee of the Theatre Royal at Munich have made trial of this method on two small buildings, one of which was prepared according to the professor's plan, the other not. Fire having been lighted in both, the one was burnt, the other received no injury. The expense of the application was only two francs for 100 feet,

VACCINATION.

We have a word for those wickedly obdurate people in our city, who are now notwithstanding the humane efforts of the corporation for their inoculation with cowpock. In 1816 the deaths from the smallpox were 179; in 1817, only 14; in 1818, 12; in '19, '20, '21 and '22, none; in 1823, 18; but in 1824, when the population again became careless, the list suddenly swelled to 394. The alarm reduced its victims again,

in 1825, to 40; and unless our inhabitants are once more roused from the suicidal torpor which now besets them, the grave will fatten on many a sufferer ere another year rolls round. Let parents call to mind the solemn truth, that by their omission of the inoculation of their children by the cowpock, they are as deeply reprehensible at the bar of heaven, as if they should refuse to withdraw them from a mine about to be sprung on them.—*N.Y. Times.*

A CAUTION.

A few days since, a respectable inhabitant of this town came near losing his life by taking a tea made of the *Datura Stramonium*, or Thornapple plant, which was mistaken for Hoarhound. By timely medical aid, however, the fatal consequences were averted, which otherwise must have ensued. We understand that a smaller dose had been taken by another of the family, which produced a temporary delirium. We hope this will serve as a caution to those who undertake to administer medicines of any kind.—*Worcester paper.*

SUGAR FROM POTATOES.

L. Gall, a German, has published a pamphlet of 83 pages, to show the advantage of making sugar from potatoes. He says every farmer can make sugar in great or small quantities, and render the importation of foreign sugar unnecessary. Potatoes he asserts, are better than beets for sugar, 100 pounds of the former giving 11 pounds of sugar, while the same quantity of the latter gives only four pounds.—*Hamp. Gaz.*

SUGAR FROM WHEAT.

A Mr. Wimmel, of Berlin, Prussia, a brewer, has discovered a method of obtaining twenty pounds of good crystallized sugar from a Prussian bushel, about 93 pounds, of wheat. The Paris papers consider the discovery of immense importance. Mr. Wimmel has applied to the French government for a patent.

A NEW DISCOVERY.

A quarry of slate stone, such as is used for slating the roofs of buildings, has been discovered on the farm of Mr. Christopher Lake, near the coal mine, Portsmouth, R. I.—There appears to be an inexhaustible quantity, and it can be got out of the quarry at a small expense, and of any size less than three or four feet square. It appears to be very tough, and about one quarter of an inch thick. Its situation is admirable, being on an eminence of land, so that the water can be easily drained off, and within a few rods of tide water. To some of our enterprising citizens it promises much, and such would do well to examine it. A piece of the slate may be seen at the office of the Journal.—*Prov. Inq.*

DIFFICULTY OF PLEASING ALL.

Those who have most to give, are most likely to complain of man's ingratitude. For this reason, a king observed, "that his power of dispensing favors was the most difficult task of royalty—since he never gave a place away but he made ninetynine discontented and ungrateful subjects." Nearly to the same purpose was Lord B.'s answer, on being asked why he discontinued annual balls? He said "his rooms were not large enough to contain more than two hundred persons, and he feared making all above that number, who were his friends, his enemies; for he had observed, that those ladies who were invited, forgot it before the next year; but those who were not invited, never forgot it during their lives."

An aged pair in the highlands of Scotland, of the name of Grant, were sitting one morning in their cottage. The gude man was crooning a portion of Scripture in the good old singsong way, to the auld wife, who sat perched upon her stool, an attentive auditor. He came to that passage in Genesis, which runs—"There were giants in the earth in those

days"—and his dim eye mistaking the *i* for an *r*, he read "There were Grants in those days!" He paused in complacency at this testimonial of family antiquity, while the auld woman exclaimed—"Ah! was there Grants so far back as that?" "Oh, yes," replied he, "we're an auld race."

THE REASON FOR SURGEONS BEING EXEMPTED FROM SITTING ON JURIES.

The reason commonly assigned for the privilege of surgeons being exempt from serving on Juries is, that they are too constantly in the habit of suppressing the humane feelings.—But this is not the real cause of the privilege, as appears from the following extract from "Andrew's History of England."—"In the same year, 1513, the Corporation of Surgeons, consisting of twelve, a number then thought equal to the care of the metropolis, petitioned Parliament to be exempted from bearing arms, or serving on Juries and as parish officers; and their petition was successful."

TO RENDER SHOES AND BOOTS WATER-PROOF.

Add to a pint of drying oil, two ounces of bees' wax, two ounces of spirit of turpentine, and half an ounce of Burgundy pitch, to be carefully melted and stirred over a slow fire. With a brush apply the mixture while warm, and when one coating is dried into the leather, repeat the application till it is saturated. The shoes should not be worn till they are perfectly dry and elastic; they will afterward be found not only impermeable to wet, but soft and pliable, and of much longer duration.—*Boston Atheneum.*

A young lad recently died in Antrim, Penn. of hydrophobia. He had been bitten about six months previous by a mad fox, but the disease did not appear till fortyeight hours before his death.

QUARRELS.

He that blows the coals in quarrels he has nothing to do with, has no right to complain if the sparks fly in his face.

Quarrels do not last long when the fault is but on one side.

Rochefoucault's Maxims.

MATRIMONIAL HINT.

"Let cheerful good humor, that sunshine of life,
Which smiles in the maiden, illumine the wife.
And mutual attention, in equal degree,
Keep Hymen's bright chain from the rust of *Ennui*."

A TAILOR'S DAUGHTER MARRIED A BARBER'S BOY.

The tailor's daughter took the barber's boy,
To be the partner of her grief and joy ;
What force the power of Nature can control!
Still, still the needle turns toward the pole.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, FEB. 20, 1827.

THE SMALLPOX.

We are happy to learn by a note from Dr. Smith, the resident physician at Hospital Island, in this harbor, that he had but four smallpox patients on the 12th instant, and that these were all doing well. We thank the Doctor for this information, and shall be pleased to publish any of his future reports.

The Traveller of the 16th instant says that "Mr. Smith Conklin, recently from St. Michaels, in the Madeira packet, was yesterday carried to Hospital Island, laboring under this dreadful disease."

MRS. COLVIN'S WEEKLY MESSENGER.

This large and elegant paper is published every Saturday, in Wash-

ington, D. C., and is conducted with good taste, spirit and ability. So far as our information extends, it is a rare thing for a lady to edite a newspaper in this country ; and even if it were more common, we think few of them would possess the merit of this. We shall be happy to lend any gentleman or lady half a dozen or more copies of this journal for inspection, and will cheerfully forward any name which may choose to be added to the subscription of this instructive and literary companion.

DICTIONARY.

Dura mater, a thick, somewhat opaque, and insensible membrane, formed of two layers ; it surrounds and defends the brain, and adheres strongly to the inner surface of the cranium or skull.

Fascia, fasciæ, plural ; a bandage, fillet or roller. Tendinous expansions, or sheaths covering and supporting the muscles.

Idiopathic fever, a fever, or any other disease, which does not depend on any other disease. The opposite term is *symptomatic*, this being some fever or morbid affection which arises from some other disorder, or is dependent on it.

Ligamentous structure, the ligaments are so called, and a ligament is a strong, elastic condensed membrane, connecting the extremities of the movable bones.

Metastasis, the translation of a disease from one part or place to another.

Nephritic affection, a disease of the kidneys, from *nephros*, a kidney.

Pyrexia, fever.

Pericardium, the membrane which encloses the heart ; the heartcase.

Renal calculi, stones, calculi, or gravel in the kidneys, from *ren* also a kidney.

Some medical terms in this week's paper have been explained before.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

WEBSTER'S CHEMISTRY.

RICHARDSON & LORD, No. 133, Washington street, have lately published a Manual of CHEMISTRY, by J. W. WEBSTER, M. D., Adjunct Irving Professor of Chemistry in Harvard University.

This work has been adopted as a textbook in the University at Cambridge: at the United States Military Academy, West Point; at Amherst, Burlington, Williams' and Washington Colleges; Castleton Medical School, and at several other Colleges and Medical Schools in the United States.

Orders for the work received by the publishers.

ATHENEUM:

OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.
FOR FEBRUARY 15, 1827,

JUST published by John Cotton, 184 Washington St. corner of Franklin St.

CONTENTS.—Footmen—The Plague of Riches—The Left-Handed Fiddler—Death and Funeral of Bonaparte—The Death of the Dromedary Driver—London Fashions, Fooleries, Sights and Speculations—Autobiography of Mansie Wauch—The Drill-Serjeant—Recollections of O'Brien, the Irish Giant—Almurath, an Eastern Tale—Beauty—Mishaps of Jack Allbut—Splendid Fete at Ballygroogagh—The Young Avenger—Morar, a Tale of the Western Highlands—The Maid-Servant—The Corsican Bandit—&c.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

JUST published by WAIT, GREENE & Co. No. 13, Court street, the American Journal of Education, Vol. II. No. II. for February, 1827.

CONTENTS.—*Miscellaneous Articles.*—Improvement of University Education—Defects in the System of liberal Education—Suggestions to Parents—Moral Education.

Reviews.—Rev. Wilbur Fisk's Introductory Address at the opening of the Wesleyan Academy in Wilbraham, Mass.—Public Education; Plans for the Government and liberal Instruction of Boys, as practised at the Hazelwood School, London.

Intelligence.—*Public Attention to Education.*—Gov. Morrow's Message to the Legislature of Ohio—Gov. Trimble's In-

augural Address—Gov. Kent to the Legislature of Maryland—Gov. E. Lincoln to the Legislature of Maine—Gov. Clinton to the Legislature of New York—Gov. L. Lincoln to the Legislature of Massachusetts—Gov. Burton to the Legislature of North Carolina—Missionary Efforts for Education—Education in South America—Kenyon College, Ohio—Yale College, Conn.—Brown University, R. I.—Mount Pleasant School, Amherst, Mass.—Improvement of Public Schools.

Notices.—*Works in the Department of Education.*—Lectures for Sunday Evenings—Juvenilia.

MEDICAL RECORDER, No. 37.

THE publication of No. 37 of the Medical Recorder will be delayed a few days, with a view to add, as additional matter, a communication addressed to Judge Parker, by Dr. Warren. Considering that the above communication embraced much valuable practical information on Dislocations, also on Jurisprudence, a letter was addressed to Dr. Warren requesting permission to reprint the same in the Recorder, which has been politely granted.

Among the papers in No. 37, will appear the following, namely:—Prize Essay on Hemorrhage, by Dr. Jameson; Dr. Hewson's interesting case of Umbilical Hernia; Dr. Watson on Sarcocoele; Dr. M'Caw on Necrosis; Dr. Dow on Anomalous Bilious Fever; Dr. Briggs on the Functions of the Liver; Dr. Archer on Consumption; Dr. Wardrop on Ophthalmia; Dr. Hamilton on the Extraction of Calculus; Dr. Stephens on Erysipelas; Dr. Pitcairn on Empyema; Dr. Brown on Gastritis, and Mr. Gardette on the Teeth.

Among the reviews of late publications will be an interesting analytical review of a new work on Dental Surgery, by Dr. Keoker, formerly of Philadelphia, now of London.

The publications in the Recorder and other Journals in relation to the Diseases of Natchez, &c. will be fairly discussed; by which it will be perceived that the Essays published in the Recorder are strictly correct, notwithstanding the attempts to make them appear otherwise.

The departments of Analysis of American and Foreign Journals, Analecta, and Medical Intelligence, will give the new and important medical information of the day. **RICHARDSON & LORD, Agents,**
Boston.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1827.

NO. 41.

BEDDOES' HYGEIA.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR A MORE ADVANCED AGE.

Continued from page 358.

A nursery on the principle of regulated warmth might in its fitting up, afford much scope for usefully minute ingenuity. In such a nursery, children, born in winter, would suffer nothing even during the most severe weather. Thus, one standing and frequently fatal evil would be banished from society. But in cold seasons the removal of children into the open world should not be precipitated. It is better to be content with habituating them to those variations of temperature, which different rooms in the same house will supply. They should, at first, not be carried into the cooler room, but when rather warm, and then for a short time. In conveying them through staircases and wherever they are likely to be met by streams of air, the whole head should be covered with warm calico, in which it is easy to leave air enough to serve, till their arrival in the apartment, to which they are destined. They should be rendered

hardy by exposure to a cold calm atmosphere for a short time at first; and at no time, till they are chilled. They should never encounter rude blasts till they can move briskly enough to produce warmth from within; and then only at intervals, successively prolonged. When they return home cold, the precautions to be mentioned below under the head of *catarrh* should be employed. I speak all along as if the objects, whose security I have in view, were by nature something of invalids. But the parents, who feel a just confidence in the robustness of their offspring, will do no injury by proceeding with a measured pace. I intend that all shall in time become hardy. But we have access to no river Styx, in which one immersion shall render us invulnerable by the elements.

One fatal error seems to be entertained by parents and by many founders and conductors of seminaries of learning. The correction of this error will afford a rule, applicable to the healthy of all ages and to those who have not deviated from

health. It was observed, that many persons, accustomed to be buffeted by storms, so much exceed the inactive fireside *tenderling* in spirit, vigor and health, as to have a fair claim to be deemed a superior variety of the human species. The effect of certain cold mediums in giving hardness to some inanimate bodies, and in bracing others, or bringing their parts closer together, was joined to the preceding observation. It was also evident to feeling, that the stoutest men have their muscles most braced or most capable of resisting compression.

These several particulars being taken together into account, no wonder it should have been concluded, that to endow a young person with the most desirable qualities of body, there was nothing to be done but to expose him sufficiently to cold. This mistaken system was, indeed, infinitely more prevalent some years ago than it is at present. And many constitutions must have been suddenly destroyed in consequence. Others, originally unable to stand rough treatment, must have received an instantaneous shock, which could never be recovered, to whatever length life might be afterwards protracted. This seems to have been the case with Rousseau, whose compliance with the custom, once

fashionable, of drinking freely of cold water in the morning to benefit the health, manifestly injured his nervous system to a degree, which I am tempted to suppose had its share in producing his subsequent unhappy state of mind.

The more any one can resist internal and external cold, the more hardy may he justly be reputed. Nor is there any surer criterion of hardiness. But whatever perfection the constitution may, in this respect, have attained, *longcontinued and repeated chills will, in the first instance enfeeble, and in the second, bring on a susceptibility to the operation of the powers, that superinduce violent diseases.* The true principle, therefore, is gradually to inure the habit to cold; then it may continually be enabled to bear a longer and severer application of it; but as soon as a chill comes on, be this whenever it may, to stop the process, and to take proper measures for returning to the natural condition without injury. Of these measures I shall say something below.

A middle course must therefore be pursued. It will be sufficiently understood from the facts, detailed in the preceding essays, that between the cold and the sedentary confinement at boardingschools, girls must almost universally be chilled into debility. But

were the schoolrooms kept of a comfortable temperature, though much misery would be prevented, the end would not be attained. This class of young persons would not be rendered efficient, happy, and healthy. In their education every circumstance tends to unfit them for such a climate as ours. Such are the facts, and such is the inevitable inference. I am aware that many parents will fully admit both, but that instead of attempting the emancipation of their daughters from so miserable a fate, they will content themselves with saying—*It is but too true. But all this signifies nothing. The thing cannot be helped. Girls must and will be sent to these places. What else can we do with them? We are obliged to employ all our care in scraping a little something together to put them out in the world.*

The celebrated traveller, NIEHBUHR, relates what he terms *a specimen of the firmness of the Arabs in misfortune*, *Reisebeschreibung*, 4to. I. 354. “One day,” he says, during his residence at *Beit el Fakih*, “a house on the south side of the town took fire; and the wind blowing fresh from the S. W. the greater part of *Beit el Fakih* became a prey to the flames. Everything had been so parched by the extreme heat, that the houses, which

were covered with grass, and surrounded by dead fences, ran into a blaze the moment the fire reached them. The Arabs were perfectly cool on the occasion. Not a cry, not a scream to be heard in the streets. But when we condoled with them on their mishap—*It is the will of God*, was the reply. We lodged in a house of masonry, on that side where the fire never came. We mounted the roof, and observed almost all the roofs of the houses of the same construction as ours, covered with people, composedly observing the conflagration. A Fakih, or poor scholar, who used to pay us frequent visits came this day, after having secured his scanty furniture, and with the greatest sangfroid imaginable, pointed out his own house, when it began to be on fire.—What an Arab loses by such a calamity,” continues Mr. Niehbuhr, “is not, it is true, of equal value with what a European loses.—However, though it be but a hut, this must always be regarded as a considerable loss to a poor man.” All this is remarkable enough. But ten thousand such anecdotes would never prove the Orientals to exceed us Europeans in fortitude or in resignation, call it which you please—unless indeed any one should contend that a cabin of Yemen is of more worth

than a virgin of Great Britain. We can look on, while our daughters decline as coolly as the Arab can on his perishing habitation. Our—it can't be helped—has not so pious a sound as the Arab exclamation; but is not the sense the same? And does not the conduct of the respective parties show that there are as true fatalists under the banner of the *cross* as that of the *crescent*? —Nor indeed do I well know what can be said on the other side of the question: except that the wealth which we have been all the time laboring to accumulate for our childrens' sake, may still, if they die, afford us the consolation of erecting over their remains a monument, which every churchgoer in the parish shall admire. Or, if the machine holds together beyond all calculation, by help of this same wealth we can conceal its rickety state beneath trappings, which a whole metropolis shall eye with envy. And a troop of menials from Parnassus will always think themselves honored alike in being put to bear cypress at the funeral, or myrtle at the wedding ceremony.

Besides the regular severity of temperature, which slowly undermines the constitution in so many schools, boys are subject to intense and suddenly pernicious chills. In the preceding essay, I have related

an instance, where certain effects of cold were brought on during the milder months of the passing winter. This patient informed me that immediately after the rain broke in, as there related, several boys were carried home ill. The accident brought that suddenly to bear, which in the usual course proceeds gradually.

But a prime incidental cause of disease and debility, I take to be too long continued swimming and bathing. In many, indeed in most schoolboys, we may be sure that there may be thus produced any sort of slow complaint, according to the existing predisposition, or any sort of inflammation, according as imprudences shall be immediately afterwards committed. No human frame can be tempered so as to resist the effect of water, applied for a certain period, and at a certain temperature. The bosom of the earth hides multitudes, who have been suddenly cut off in their pride of strength by its operation, or whose hairs have been slowly brought down to the grave, before they were grey. Greater multitudes have been reduced by the very same agent to crawl on its surface, or lie continually groaning under an inability to crawl. This fate befalls the mountaineer of the Highlands and of the Alps. It equally befalls races of men, in

comparison with whom the Highlander and the Swiss would seem to deserve to pass for feeble and uninured to hardships.* What then is not to be apprehended from the tenderly reared offspring of parents not particularly robust, if they be allowed to dabble in water at discretion? I do not see how we shall avoid the opposite inconveniences of renouncing wholesome practices altogether, or of carrying

* See what Ehlich, under the name of Dr. J. Reineggs, says of the Lesgæ and Duschi tribes inhabiting the very summit of Caucasus.

"From natural appearances one should imagine that there were no inhabitants. Astonishment is produced at that temerity of rude art, by which the edges of immeasurable gulfs are joined by bridges; dangerous but passable roads conducted along precipices, and streams forced into a course not their own. The exterior of the houses produces horror. They seem only reclined against the rock.—Both tribes sow their fields in peace. But seldom does a harvest pass without hostilities. The stronger obtains the advantage, and reaps where he has not sown.—Therefore each guards his field at the hazard of life.—The care of the Duschi for their flocks is extraordinary, and their vigilance indefatigable.—A young shepherd was feeding his sheep, when the approach of evening, and a violent and continued fall of rain, obliged him to drive homewards. But he met with a stream, which he was obliged to pass, so swollen and impetuous, that his sheep could not swim it. However, the dread of becoming the nocturnal booty of the Lesgæ, or of wolves, urged him to seek a place of security. He did not therefore refuse the toil of carrying two hundred and thirty sheep across this stream. Relieved from apprehension, and content with the issue of his efforts, he did not seem to trouble himself about the incurable cramp, which the cold of the water had brought on his feet. I saw him in a state in which his whole lower extremities were immovable; and now, at the end of twenty years, he serves as a pattern for shepherds."

them to a hurtful excess, without a superintendent who can judge of the effect in every individual instance, who can regulate exposure according to the resisting power of each constitution, and put an immediate stop to any threatening mischief, brought on by youthful heedlessness or impetuosity.

It will be obvious, if there be any truth in the preceding observations, that no person, already chilled, is fit to encounter a more chilling medium. What can be safely done in a heated state, may call for a little further explanation. It is clear, from a hundred instances that, when persons are heated, the sudden use of cold whether external or internal, to a certain extent, will destroy life and health. In the case of dry heat, however, it appears that* water may be drank and applied as cold, as nature furnishes it, safely and with the advantage of refreshment. But if the application be external, it should be but for a short time. And the quantity drank should be sparing: and the draught should be discontinued the instant there is the least sense of chilliness in the stomach, or rather before any such sense supervenes. This caution is the more necessary to those who

* See Dr. Currie on Fever. Liverpool, 1798.

have lived in habits of indulgence. Such persons chill faster than others, and they suffer more from frigorific or coldproducing agents, too freely applied. Our ladies should, for these reasons, be particularly on their guard. Experience teaches them how little they can venture to take liberties with themselves at *certain periods*. But in early life many become victims to this species of indiscretion. I have at present one example under my daily inspection. And a lady of observation has favored me with the following account of an occurrence at school, from which she has been a sufferer these sixteen years. "A. B. having excessively heated herself at play with a girl nearly of the same age, they heard the dinner bell ring. Being afraid to make their appearance in this situation, *mark the delicate discipline of these seminaries*, they both dipped their faces into a tub of cold water. They both felt extremely warm at the moment, had not ceased from play, and were perspiring. A. B. was then for the first time in a state that made more than usual care requisite. The almost *immediate* consequence was a violent inflammation in her eyes, and a fever which confined her to her bed for ten days. This was followed by a cutaneous eruption on her

face, which has remained ever since, and has never in the slightest degree appeared in any part of the body. The periodical indisposition did not take place again for three months."

"The other young lady sustained no apparent injury at the time. She was soon after separated from A. B. who did not hear of her again for two years, when she was sent to the Hotwells for a decline. She however grew better, and had one child, but eventually died of consumption. Whether there is any reason for supposing the imprudent act abovementioned to have had any share in bringing it on, A. B. has no means of determining." Unless indeed some indisposition speedily took place, connecting the first attack of pulmonary complaint with the act of imprudence, I should not suppose that these stood in any relation to each other. There needs nothing out of the common course of things to throw a young woman into consumption; and without the help of forced interpretations, there are warnings enough against the free use of cold water, when people are heated. In a small medical tract for the poor, published ten years ago, and of which six thousand copies are dispersed among the public, I quoted from Dr. Franklin an authentic instance,

in which four young men, who having worked at harvest in the heat of the day, plunged into a spring of cold water. Two died on the spot, a third the next morning, and the fourth with great difficulty recovered. The effect of the Cydnus on Alexander the Great has been long celebrated as an example of the danger of sudden cold in an overheated state. An ingenious and experienced writer has endeavored to prove, that Alexander was exhausted, and perhaps cool from perspiration. But it is too much to flatter one'sself that the closest investigation of the case of Alexander can assist in removing any of the difficulties that attach to the particular point of perspiration. Can it be thought likely that any, even of the immediate attendants on the person of the Macedonian monarch, could have given an account, in the least satisfactory to the modern physiologist, of the state in which he plunged into the mountain stream? How much less then can the relation of historians be assumed as the basis of conclusive reasoning? Such speculations, however, must be allowed one important use. In the event of future unpleasant consequences, they will induce an attention to catch and retain the previous circumstances, before they vanish from the memory.

REFLECTIONS ON DISEASES OF IRRITATION.

By Dr. JAMES FOUNTAIN, New York.

All agents capable of producing an accelerated movement, or simply an elevation of *natural action*, must be called strictly *stimulants*, or *excitants*, and either effect *excitement*. This excitement also, to a certain point of elevation, is consistent with health; but above this point, by deranging the functions of the part affected, it becomes morbid, constituting inflammation.

As a proof that inflammation consists of increased action only, I shall adduce one example as sufficient; and the most familiar and unequivocal one is the effect produced by the application of caloric to the living body. Here the gradual augmentation of the quantity of the agent will produce a corresponding elevation of action, till all the phenomena of inflammation are developed, without the least evidence of change in kind of action, more than what arises from excess. Its effects, however, tumefaction, effusion, suppuration, &c., must not be confounded with its essence. The want of discrimination between cause and effect, has ever been a stumbling-block to pathologists, and led to innumerable fallacies.

Inflammation varies not only in degree, according to the intensity of the exciting cause, and the grade of predisposition, but in character, according to the structure of the part affected, as the membranous, parenchymatous, mucous, &c. What is termed passive, or chronic inflammation, by authors, is either the subacute state, or merely the effect of a less excessive action.

Having taken a cursory view of morbid excitation, or inflammation, properly so called, I shall revert to *original action*, and take a general survey of those movements which are justly said to be changed in kind. Of those, some are increased, and some reduced in degree, according to the state of their vitality, and the

nature of the exciting causes; and yet all are *modified in kind*. These constitute the poisons, the "morbid" and "specific" inflammation of authors, and many other affections located by them in the former class. There are similar affections of the nervous system exclusively, in which vascular action does not necessarily participate; to all of which I propose to restrict the term *irritation*. The agents capable of producing this perturbed movement, are the true *irritants* and cannot, in strict conformity to pathological language, be called stimulants.

Irritation may be divided into *organic* or *structural*, and *nervous*. The structural, involving both the vascular and organic nervous tissue of the part affected, has its seat, as well as inflammation proper, according to Dr. Copland, in the ganglial, or organic system of nerves only; or those, to which are entrusted the developement and support of the system, of which the great sympathetics are the centre. *Nervous* irritation, on the contrary, is confined to the sentient, or cerebrospinal system of nerves, or those adapted purely to sensation and voluntary motion.

Nervous Headache.

It has been observed that not only the nerves, but the brain occasionally admitted of a perverted action, submitting to the laws of nervous irritative diseases in general. This is exemplified in what is called nervous headache. Periodical and nervous headache are often used synonymously; but such looseness in medical language is very objectionable, inasmuch as it leads to the very worst treatment.

Many people, especially sanguineous and delicate females with flushed countenances, are occasionally affected in the afternoon with pain in the head, which increases till they have slept a sufficient length of time, when they awake free from distress, and in good health. This continues

uninterrupted till midday, when the same action commences, and runs the same course. This affection, which is truly periodical, arises unquestionably from an increased action of the capillaries of the brain, and consequently would be aggravated by stimuli or irritants.

The nervous, or periodical headache of authors, however, is quite the reverse of this. It affects the feeble and nervous with emaciated habits and countenances. It commences early in the morning, sometimes a few minutes after awaking, and continues till just after midday, when it begins to decline, and in the evening ceases entirely. It arises, most probably, from a perturbed state of the faculties of the brain, favored by debility both cerebral and vascular. That pure debility or atony will not produce this affection, is evident from the fact, that excessive hemorrhages and other directly depletory means, how far soever they may be carried, will not of necessity induce the disease.

Cure. The indication of cure in nervous irritative disease in general, that of elevating vascular action, will not always overcome the morbid process constituting this disease; though it frequently will, especially when supported by tonics, effect this end. This affection more readily admits of relief from counterirritants, inducing a new action in the parts concerned capable of maintaining its ascendancy. For this purpose no article possesses half the efficacy of *arsenic*. This herculean agent, administered in doses of one fourth, or one half a grain twice in twenty-four hours, with the interposition of a laxative every 4th or 5th day, will seldom, I may venture to say, almost never, disappoint the practitioner.

CASE. A. Smith, Esq. æt. 23, of a spare habit, and nervous temperament, had been affected 18 months with the nervous headache. The pain commenced often before he awoke in the morning, and continued

severe till evening, when he experienced a small respite. His appetite was bad, his pulse 130, and his spirits depressed. He had gone through the ordinary routine of medicines: had taken tonics, antispasmodics, &c. and when I first saw him he despaired of obtaining relief from any quarter. I gave him pills containing each one quarter of a grain of arsenic, ordering one morning and evening.—Finding partial relief, he unadvisedly doubled the number, and took occasionally a laxative, and at the expiration of 20 days, found himself free from his malady. This was thirteen years ago, since which he has enjoyed comparatively good health, neither dropsy nor any ill consequences resulting.

Rheumatism.

Every practitioner of much experience must have witnessed cases termed rheumatic, especially of the back, shoulders, breast, and superior extremities, and even of most of the larger joints, which were uniformly unrelieved or aggravated either by a tonic or depletory course. A very striking case of the kind is mentioned by Dr. Philip. By a little attention the subjects of these rheumatic affections will be found to labor under some hepatic disorder. Since no organic derangement is manifest in the part, these pains must be nervous irritations, and symptomatic of the internal affection. Why a diseased liver should produce a pain in the shoulder, has never been satisfactorily answered, Dr. Good's explanation notwithstanding. But such is the fact; and not in the shoulders only, but in almost every joint of the body. I know several people laboring under slight hepatic derangements, who, for years, have seldom been free from these pains wandering from one joint to another. Some enjoy a degree of health, whilst others are feverish. Like subacute hepatitis, these pseudorheumatic pains may exist an indefinite length of time without inducing organic de-

rangement. But when from any cause they become aggravated, a real inflammation is developed by a law so frequently adverted to; and from an effect they become a cause. Instead of an irritative symptomatic, we have now an inflammatory affection to encounter, frequently involving in the excitement the whole vascular system, producing a symptomatic fever. The former pains are supplanted, and a new feature is given to the primary disorder of the joints; and on the principle of counterirritation, the original hepatic affection is sometimes wholly removed. Now it must be evident, that the complication, from beginning to end, must be different from ordinary rheumatism from cold.—This form is quite common; and the ill success of the means ordinarily employed has contributed, not a little, to strengthen the prejudices of people against the use of medicines in this disease.

Cure. The means of cure in hepatic rheumatism may be divided into two classes—those required during the irritative, and those during the inflammatory stage. During the irritative stage, it is frequently sufficient to remove the exciting cause—the hepatic derangement. For this purpose mercurials and opening medicines are indispensable.—Four or five grains of blue pill, with the same quantity of rhubarb, may be administered twice every day, and as much Epsom salt as will produce two motions, may be given every second morning. After using these resolvents for six, eight, or ten days, an infusion of quassia or columbo may be taken every morning to give tone to the stomach and bowels, and through them to the whole system; and, at the same time, to raise the action of the vessels of the painful parts, they may be embrocated with some stimulating liniment.

Dr. Philip observes, "I have already had occasion to allude to the case of a gentleman who labored under severe pains of the legs,

which had been treated unsuccessfully for two years. A grain of blue pill, combined with stomachic and opening medicines, was given three or four times a day, and the pains with the other symptoms disappeared in a few weeks."

Deviating a little from my plan, I must beg to observe, that during the second or inflammatory stage we have a different and more difficult state to manage. We have hepatic derangement, universal debility, and local inflammation to encounter. The local inflammation having a tendency to relieve the internal affection, vigorous depletory measures cannot, according to my experience, be adopted with safety to the system. In this stage of hepatic rheumatism, moderate venesection may be resorted to, and the excitement kept down by a combination of subm. hyd. one part, pulvis antimon. two parts, and nitras potass. four parts, given in doses of from eight to twelve grains every three hours from midday till 9 in the evening, followed next morning by an operative dose of sulph. mag. and infusion of senna. "During the early stage of the disease," observes Dr Moore in his Hospital Report, "the bowels are kept freely purged by giving, each night, eight or ten grains of calomel, and in the morning following, salts with senna." Dr. Moore's cases were undoubtedly hepatic rheumatism; the success of his cathartic plan cannot be accounted for on any other principle. Enveloping the whole body in flannel, and the joints doubly so, should never be neglected. It is a peculiar injunction in every stage of hepatic rheumatism.

From the New Harmony Gazette.
GYMNASTICS.

Concluded from p. 459.

The remedy for peevish debility, and for nervous debility,—the only one we believe—is to be found in bodily exercise.

Some active employment is necessary both for men and women, if they desire to preserve physical and mental health. All the really necessary occupations will be found, under proper regulations, not only a source of independence but of positive enjoyment; that species of enjoyment which cannot be obtained under the influence of sedentary habits. Even if the various physical occupations were not indispensable to our subsistence, it would be wisdom to introduce them for the express purpose of strengthening the body and regulating the mind. The idle, fashionable prejudices that exist, even in our republican country, against useful and beneficial employment, as menial and degrading, will soon pass away; so that our successors will wonder, and with reason, that such perverted notions of honor and respectability could ever have found a place among rational beings.

Thus, much of that physical exertion which health imperatively demands, is to be found in those hitherto neglected, almost despised occupations of daily necessity and benefit. But we are of opinion that this *alone* is not enough. It may, and it does in a great measure supersede the *necessity* for artificial gymnastics; it gives health and a considerable share of strength and activity. But if we advance beyond the merely necessary to the beneficial,—if a human being is to be formed to the power and agility which his organization permits and favors,—if man is to enjoy the unenervating luxury which nature has attached to a state of high physical development, the buoyant feeling of untiring activity which shall scarcely forsake him even in fatigue,—then, in addition to these indispensable and productive exertions, a wellregulated system of gymnastics must be introduced. Such a system will comprehend a series of exercises arranged with anatomical precision, to call

successively into exertion all the muscles of the body; and progressing from those that are easy and simple, to the more arduous and complicated exercises.

The beneficial influence of such exercises was appreciated by the ancients; and he was considered but an effeminate softling who suffered his bodily powers to be idly dormant. In modern times it has been unaccountably overlooked, till the recent introduction of gymnastics into Germany, and other parts of the European continent.

This introduction was principally effected by Professor Jahn, of democratic celebrity; and the first example was quickly imitated, with a species of enthusiasm, in most of the German and Swiss universities. Jahn, by his freedom of speech, and as a stickler for liberty and equality, soon incurred the high displeasure of the German government. He was arrested and confined for a length of time in prison. His gymnasiums, or *Turnschulen*, as he called them, were broken up by legal authority, as subversive of the implicit obedience to the powers that be, that constitutes a good subject; and creative of a strange, troublesome independence of spirit in the *Turners*, that is Gymnics, which the government thought might soon become unmanageable, and which it was therefore the wisest course to crush in its germ.

At this very moment, we believe, it is forbidden throughout the whole of the Austrian dominions, to establish a school for gymnastics, except in a private house; and even here it shall not consist of more than five or six scholars. Most of those professors who had been connected with the establishment of gymnasiums were obliged to fly their country; they took shelter, many in Switzerland, some in Great Britain. At Fellenburg's wellknown seminary, near Berne, gymnastics have been a regular branch of instruction for

many years: the effects that have resulted from them there have been to every one who witnessed them, the most convincing proof how much mankind have lost by neglecting them. The acquirements by many of the pupils in strength and agility, even in courage and presence of mind, have been such as to create astonishment; to detail them would be to excite incredulity; for to be credited, these effects must be seen and felt. Fortunately the attention of the American public is now awakened to the subject; and facts will soon speak for themselves.

We recommend it to all teachers of schools, male and female, to examine this subject. Much of the physical and mental capabilities of the rising generation will depend on the rapidity with which the beneficial results of gymnastic exercises are recognized and obtained.

ON THE PERIOD OF WEANING INFANTS.

On no subject connected with the treatment of infants, have practitioners more differed in opinion, than on the age at which they should be weaned. Dr. Copland, in an article on this important subject, observes,—

“With respect to the time of weaning, custom has unquestionably been most erroneous, especially among the higher classes in this country, eight or ten months being for the most part the limit of their suckling. The lower ranks, however, continue it frequently for two years; and the Irish we have seen, who had persisted in it so long as three years. The proper time seems to vary from about eighteen months to two years, the breast having been in some degree withdrawn, from the first appearance of the large teeth termed the grinders. When sucking is thus prolonged, it is surprising how much more readily and easily children are weaned; whereas, when they are removed from the breast before they are thoroughly capable of taking artifi-

cial food, the time of weaning becomes exceedingly troublesome. That the continuance of suckling so long is also serviceable to the child, we have not only our own experience and observation to rely on," says Dr. Copland, "but analogy from some of the lower animals, especially from colts. Horse breeders are well aware, that those colts become the strongest, and most capable of exertion, which run longest with the mares.

By far, however, the most difficult task in bringing up infants is, when from circumstances they are obliged to be drynursed. Some children, it is true, become readily accustomed to artificial food, and thrive well with it; and this frequently happens in children of the same parents. But this is not the usual course; and it may be asserted, without the slightest fear of contradiction, that at least four out of five drynursed children die, either immediately from the effects of their unnatural diet, or from diseases of which it lays the foundation.

"The two principal circumstances to be remembered in bringing up infants artificially, are to procure food as similar to that which they would have drawn from the mother, and to make them take it by suction.

"The first of these conditions can for the most part be fulfilled in a small degree, since cow's milk, which is the most procurable, contains so great a quantity of curd, as almost to render it improper for the human infant. Asses' milk, if it can be procured, is the best substitute for the mother's milk; but, unfortunately, this is generally so scarce, that it is necessary to find some other food. Dr. Clarke has merely recommended, under such circumstances, the same diet that has been mentioned for infants, when artificial food is first given to those who suckle. The same general rules, indeed, hold good in both cases, and the quantity is even more important

in proportion as the age of the child is much less, and the stomach more delicate. But the manner in which food is administered to newborn infants, is not less important than its quantity and quality. Nothing certainly is more disgusting nor more injurious than the custom of giving food with a spoon, under such circumstances. The child is laid on its back by the nurse, and the fluid is literally poured into its mouth; and whether it passes into the windpipe or not, is, so far as the nurse is concerned, entirely left to chance. Bottles are now so readily procurable, by means of which the child may take its food by suction, that the use of a spoon is utterly inexcusable. But even the bottle is liable to abuse: the milk may escape too rapidly, or not rapidly enough. In the former case, it is as bad as a spoon; in the latter, the child is tired before it has obtained sufficient nutriment. The means of remedying these inconveniences may be readily discovered by a little attention, and a resolution that the child's health in no way be made to yield to the nurse's indolence.

"It will, however, sometimes happen, that no artificial food will agree with an infant, and the only alternative is a wetnurse. The general rules for the choice of a wetnurse are very easily laid down and remembered. The woman must of course enjoy good health, and have plenty of milk; but it is important also that she should have been confined very nearly at the same time with the mother of the infant, for the milk secreted by the mother varies very much as the age of the child advances, and that which is adapted for a child seven months old, is by no means composed of the same constituent parts as it was six months before."

Some eminent practitioners in midwifery say, that nature clearly points out not only the period of weaning, but also the nature of the food that should be given to the

child; namely, when four of the front teeth have appeared in both jaws, the child should be weaned and fed with a diet which does not require to be masticated, as arrowroot jelly, thick milk, &c; and when the same number of grinders appear in both jaws, the child should be allowed a more substantial food, and taught to masticate, by introducing a long slice of the inside of boiled or roasted beef or mutton, secured to the end of a spoon or piece of whalebone, between the grinders. In our 29th number, we have inserted a letter from a very sensible lady of Yorkshire, on the proper diet of infants, in which she highly recommends the addition of a little lime water to cow's milk, to prevent the formation of firm curd, and allay irritation in the stomach and bowels, by neutralizing any acid matter. When cow's milk is evidently too heavy for the stomach, or when the alimentary canal is in a state of morbid irritability from bad digestion and the prevalence of acidity, the following composition may be substituted for it:—Take of fresh cow's milk, a quarter of a pint; fresh thick barleywater, or arrowroot jelly made with water, a quarter of a pint; fresh limewater, a tablespoonful.

If the child be much oppressed by flatulence, or suffers from colicky pains, two or three drops of the essence, not the essential oil, of caraway or dill seed may be added.

Some circumstances, which should always be duly regarded in deciding on the proper time for weaning an infant, and which are not referred to in this article, have already been partially noticed in this paper, and will again be more fully discussed at the proper time.

The season of the year which in this climate should be particularly attended to, is one of these circumstances.

"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds."

O Thou, who dry'st the mourner's tear,
How dark this world would be,
If, when deceiv'd and wounded here,
We could not fly to thee.
The friends, who in our sunshine live,
When winter comes, are flown;
And he, who has but tears to give,
Must weep these tears alone.
But thou wilt heal that broken heart,
Which, like the plants that throw
Their fragrance from the wounded part,
Breathes sweetness out of woe.

When joy no longer soothes or cheers,
And e'en the hope, that threw
A moment's sparkle o'er our tears,
Is dimm'd and vanquish'd too!
O! who could bear life's stormy doom,
Did not thy wing of love
Come brightly wafting through the gloom,
Our peacebranch from above?
Then, sorrow, touch'd by thee grows bright,
With more than rapture's ray;
As darkness shows us worlds of light,
We never saw by day! T. M.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, FEB. 27, 1827.

"Belles who rise soon and walk apace,
Steal roses from Aurora's face;
But when they yawn in bed till ten,
Aurora steals them back again."

We will not say there is neither rhyme nor reason in this poetry, though we think there is more of the former than of the latter. It too nearly resembles the indiscriminate praise of early rising and early walking, which are not always conducive to health, or conformable to reason. Early is here a relative period. An early hour by the sun may be the proper, or the improper time for rising or walking, according to circumstances. That quantity of sleep for instance, on which the proper time to rise somewhat depends, is the best which gives us the greatest strength and activity through the remainder of the 24 hours. One may sleep too little or too much for this purpose, and he may remain too

long or not long enough in bed to obtain this exact quantity of refreshment and repose. What every one then is to aim at for himself is to secure this desirable amount of sleep; which will be found to vary in different persons according to age, habit, state of health, &c.

The due length of time to be in bed having been determined by experiment and observation, a man will sleep better if this time is taken from the night, than he will if it is taken from the day, the evening or the morning. Hence the propriety of retiring to rest at the stated and seasonable hour. The influence of habit is in favor of this regularity because it tends to good sleep. The proper time for sleep varies as we have said with the different periods of life,—infants and children require more sleep, and should begin to sleep earlier than persons more advanced in life.

This being premised we are prepared for the question, what is the best time for rising? One reply to this is, when we have slept enough; but the question recurs, what is sufficient sleep? To explain; let it be supposed that he who lives temperately, and exercises freely in the open air, never sleeps too much, or too long for his physical wellbeing, if he rises when he wakes; and this is the proper time to rise for all who are in tolerable health, provided they can sleep no more after waking, without sleeping too late, and thus interfering with the business of the morning.

Some persons regret the loss of that time which is spent in refresh-

ing and necessary sleep, as if it were time illspent or wasted. This regret, we apprehend, arises from a mistaken view of what may be called the morality of sleep, for this we believe corresponds exactly with the philosophy, or the natural purpose, of sleep. Our physical and moral wellbeing here meet on the same point; and for this reason, sufficient sleep is as necessary for health, as this is for a successful and proper use of time. The fault respecting sleep consists in passing more time in bed than is consistent with the longest, and most useful exertion of all our faculties in the discharge of their appropriate duties. Many persons, even with these views, remain in bed longer than they would do, if they knew how to occupy themselves when early up, either pleasantly or beneficially. Hence there is great wisdom and advantage in providing for some engagement of this kind. This provision must be left to the circumstances and resources of different families and individuals.

If these notions are just, it would seem that one may rise, or may walk abroad too early, or under such circumstances as will not conduce to his health, or the best enjoyment and occupation of the day. We have occasionally seen and partaken of a morning walk in summer, one or two hours before the usual time of rising,—but we have rarely found any inducement to repeat them, for the breakfast has not been better relished, nor the day any better spent, for this unseasonable excursion; more frequently, the effect has been the reverse of this. These

excursions sometimes interfere with the requisite amount of sleep, and others are not unfrequently made over the wet grass, and in a chilly, damp air. There is generally a fallacy in supposing that the air before sunrise is more conducive to health than the same air at a later hour. In what does the atmosphere at sunrise differ from the air of midnight, till the sun has warmed and dried it? and who deems the night air to be good?

We would not deprive the sedentary being who has no other time to inhale the open air, to debar himself from the privilege of rising with the sun, or before it, for his morning exercise. We know the farmer, the laborer, and the traveller, with the aid of vigor and habit, can all do this with impunity, if not with advantage.

But when we see a group of tender females, who habitually neglect the ordinary means of health and strength, setting forth by daylight on an enterprize of this sort, there is quite as much of poetry and romance in the outset, as of discretion,—and in the coming in more of a disposition to return to the couch than cheerfully to engage in the occupations of the day.

In a thousand instances individuals must be left to think and act for themselves, and their conduct will be more or less fortunate and successful in proportion to the correctness of their principles of action. Hence the advantage of settling these principles seasonably, deliberately and accurately.

A certain contemporary writer, whose productions we always admire for the sound argument and

practical good sense contained in them, we perceive makes quite a frequent use of the words "to shew." How is the verb show conjugated? What is its infinitive? SAT VERB. &c.

We take this remark from the *Christian Intelligencer*, of Maine, and we are glad to see that the Editor has noticed this frequent inaccuracy. Many newspapers, from their inattention to the proper use of words, contribute materially to the inaccuracy of language. This verb should always be written and spoken *show*, *showed*, *shown*. Instead of this some of our learned men, who ought to know better, say *shew* for *showed*, thus making two mistakes at once. He *shew* me his library &c.—Again, not one writer in twenty, even of our best authors, is free from the fault of writing *that* for this, and *those* for these; look into any public print or book, and an instance will occur in almost every page where these words are used.

The conjugation of the little verb *to eat* is also every hour violated both in writing and speaking; and yet the correct use of these words in all their tenses and forms, might be learnt by any one in five minutes, or less time. This is hardly consistent or becoming in "the Athens of America."

TO FREE GLASS AND EARTHEN WARE FROM TAINTED SMELLS.

To free such glass vessels and other utensils as refuse to be purified by scouring with potash and sand, employ fresh burnt charcoal in powder diffused in water. Rub them well with the wet charcoal, and then wipe them dry. If they still smell, repeat the operation.—*Glasgow Mech. Mag.*

ADVERTISEMENTS.

BREWER & BROTHERS.

THE Copartnership heretofore existing under the firm of BARTLETT & BREWER, Druggists, was dissolved on the 31st ult.

SAMUEL N. BREWER, the junior partner, having succeeded to the business, has associated himself with his brothers, NATHANIEL BREWER, M.D.—and WILLIAM A. BREWER, who has been six years in the store. They will continue the business of Druggists and Apothecaries, at the old stand, Sign of the Good Samaritan, No. 92, Washington Street, under the firm of SAMUEL N. BREWER & BROTHERS, and promising every possible attention to their business, respectfully solicit patronage.

SAMUEL N. BREWER,
NATHANIEL BREWER,
WILLIAM A. BREWER.

Boston, January 1, 1827.

THE two first of the following works were translated from the French, and the others written, by the Editor, and are for sale at this Office.

BRERA on Worms.

BICHAT on the Membranes.

Discourses on Warm and Cold Bathing.

A dissertation on Medical Education, and on the Medical Profession.

Remarks on the Dangers and Duties of Sepulture.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

JUST published by WAIT, GREENE & Co. No. 13, Court street, the American Journal of Education, Vol. II. No. II. for February, 1827.

CONTENTS.—*Miscellaneous Articles.*—Improvement of University Education—Defects in the System of liberal Education—Suggestions to Parents—Moral Education.

Reviews.—Rev. Wilbur Fisk's Introductory Address at the opening of the Wesleyan Academy in Wilbraham, Mass.—Public Education; Plans for the Government and liberal Instruction of Boys, as practised at the Hazelwood School, London.

Intelligence.—*Public Attention to Education.*—Gov. Morrow's Message to the Legislature of Ohio—Gov. Trimble's Inaugural Address—Gov. Kent to the Le-

gislature of Maryland—Gov. E. Lincoln to the Legislature of Maine—Gov. Clinton to the Legislature of New York—Gov. L. Lincoln to the Legislature of Massachusetts—Gov. Burton to the Legislature of North Carolina—Missionary Efforts for Education—Education in South America—Kenyon College, Ohio—Yale College, Conn.—Brown University, R. I.—Mount Pleasant School, Amherst, Mass.—Improvement of Public Schools.

Notices.—*Works in the Department of Education.*—Lectures for Sunday Evenings—Juvenilia.

MEDICAL RECORDER, No. 37.

THE publication of No. 37 of the Medical Recorder will be delayed a few days, with a view to add, as additional matter, a communication addressed to Judge Parker, by Dr. Warren. Considering that the above communication embraced much valuable practical information on Dislocations, also on Jurisprudence, a letter was addressed to Dr. Warren requesting permission to reprint the same in the Recorder, which has been politely granted.

Among the papers in No. 37, will appear the following, namely;—Prize Essay on Hemorrhage, by Dr. Jameson; Dr. Hewson's interesting case of Umbilical Hernia; Dr. Watson on Sarcocoele; Dr. McCaw on Necrosis; Dr. Dow on Anomalous Bilious Fever; Dr. Briggs on the Functions of the Liver; Dr. Archer on Consumption; Dr. Wardrop on Ophthalmia; Dr. Hamilton on the Extraction of Calculus; Dr. Stephens on Erysipelas; Dr. Pitcairn on Empyema; Dr. Brown on Gastritis, and Mr. Gardette on the Teeth.

Among the reviews of late publications will be an interesting analytical review of a new work on Dental Surgery, by Dr. Keoker, formerly of Philadelphia, now of London.

The publications in the Recorder and other Journals in relation to the Diseases of Natchez, &c. will be fairly discussed; by which it will be perceived that the Essays published in the Recorder are strictly correct, notwithstanding the attempts to make them appear otherwise.

The departments of Analysis of American and Foreign Journals, Analecta, and Medical Intelligence, will give the new and important medical information of the day. RICHARDSON & LORD, Agents, Boston.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1827.

NO. 42.

ON THE EFFECTS OF LOSS OF BLOOD.

BY DR. MARSHALL HALL.

The subject of this paper is of the highest interest both in a physiological and practical point of view, and we recommend it as meriting particular attention: it is the most important in the volume. It is stated by Dr. HALL, and justly, that the effects of loss of blood are frequently such as suggest the idea of increased power of the system; thence leading us to the further employment of the lancet, under circumstances when its use is highly prejudicial. As an example, we may refer to the throbbing of the carotids, and apparent determination to the head, which follow uterine hemorrhage, or any other very copious depletion; a state of symptoms leading an inexperienced practitioner to the idea that still further evacuation is required to free the system from the increased arterial action. This we have had occasion to see, and therefore conclude that others are equally familiar with the fact. But we must return to the author before us. In giving

us the results of his observations on the effects of loss of blood, he adopts the following arrangement:—

“I. Of the immediate effects of loss of blood, chiefly syncope, and of the reaction or failure of the vital powers.

“II. Of the more remote or cumulative effects of repeated or protracted loss of blood, or *exhaustion*; and, 1, of exhaustion with excessive reaction; 2, of exhaustion with defective reaction; 3, of exhaustion with sinking.

“III. Of the effects of further loss of blood, in cases of exhaustion. 1. Of the substitution of syncope for reaction; 2, of the transition of the stage of reaction into that of sinking; 3, of sudden dissolution.

“IV. Of the influence of various circumstances on the effects of loss of blood. 1. Of age, &c; 2, of disease.

“V. Of the effects of loss of blood on the internal organs. 1. The brain; 2, the heart; 3, the lungs; 4, the intestinal canal, &c.”

I. With regard to the immediate effect of loss of blood, the most common is syncope.

In this condition the phenomena seem to indicate that the brain is the part whose function is first impaired; next the respiration suffers, and the action of the heart becomes weakened, both from the diminished quantity of blood, and from the difficulty in its arterialisation.

"In cases of profuse hemorrhagy, the state of the patient varies; there is at one moment a degree of syncope, then a partial recovery. During the syncope, the countenance is extremely pallid; there is more or less insensibility; the respiratory movements of the thorax are at one period imperceptible, and then there are irregular sighs; the pulse is slow, feeble, or not to be distinguished; the extremities are cold, and the stomach is frequently affected with sickness. I have observed that when the movements of the chest, in the interval between the sighs, have been imperceptible or nearly so, the respiration has still been carried on by means of the diaphragm. It may also be remarked, that the state of syncope is often relieved, for a time, by an attack of sickness and vomiting; immediately after which, the patient expresses himself as feeling better; the countenance is somewhat improved, the breathing more natural, and the pulse stronger and more frequent.

"In cases of fatal hemorrhagy, there are none of these ameliorations. The symptoms gradually and progressively assume a more and more frightful aspect. The countenance does not improve, but becomes pale and sunk. The consciousness sometimes remains till towards the last, when there is some delirium; but everything denotes an impaired state of the energies of the brain. The breathing becomes stertorous, and at length gasping. The pulse is extremely feeble, or even imperceptible. Animal heat fails, and the extremities become colder and colder, in spite of every kind of external warmth. The voice may be strong, but there is constant restlessness and jactitation. Ultimately the strength fails, and the patient sinks, gasps, and expires."

P. 124-5.

The system usually rallies spontaneously from syncope; and the act by which the recovery is effected, is called reaction. Now this reaction may be either excessive or defective, or altogether wanting. The phenomena resulting from these circumstances form the subject of subsequent inquiry: at present it is only to be added, that loss of blood occasionally gives rise to attacks of convulsions, instead of syncope.

II. The recovery, under favorable circumstances, is ge-

nerally a simple return to health, the pulse not exceeding its natural frequency. When the bleeding has been profuse, the pulse becomes, and continues for some time, more frequent than natural; and if the individual, instead of a copious loss of blood occurring at one time, is subjected to repeated venesection, the pulse acquires an increased frequency, with throbbing, and occasionally all the symptoms of excessive reaction. They are thus described:

"The state of excessive reaction is formed gradually, and consists, at first, in forcible beating of the pulse, of the carotids, and of the heart, accompanied by a sense of throbbing in the head, of palpitation of the heart, and eventually, perhaps, of beating or throbbing in the scrobiculus cordis, and in the course of the aorta. This state of reaction is augmented occasionally by a turbulent dream, mental agitation, or bodily exertion. At other times it is modified by a temporary faintness or syncope. In the more exquisite cases of excessive reaction, the symptoms are still more strongly marked. The beating of the temples is now accompanied by a throbbing pain of the head, and the energies and sensibilities of the brain are morbidly augmented. Sometimes there is intolerance of

light, but still more frequently intolerance of noise and disturbance of any kind, requiring stillness to be strictly enjoined, the knockers to be tied, and straw to be strewed along the pavement. The sleep is agitated and disturbed by fearful dreams; and the patient is liable to awake in a state of great hurry of mind, sometimes almost approaching to delirium. In general this is slight, but occasionally severe and even continued. More frequently there are great noises in the head, as of singing, of crackers, of a storm, or of a cataract; in some instances, flashes of light are seen. Sometimes there is a sense of great pressure, or tightness, in one part or round the head, as if the skull were pressed by an iron nail, or bound by an iron hoop.

"The action of the heart and arteries is morbidly increased; and there occur great palpitation and visible throbbing of the carotids, and sometimes even of the abdominal aorta, augmented to a still greater degree by every hurry of mind or exertion of the body, by sudden noises or hurried dreams and wakings. The patient is often greatly alarmed, and impressed with the feeling of approaching dissolution. The state of palpitation and throbbing are apt to change, at different times,

into a feeling of syncope. The effect of sleep is in some instances very extraordinary; sometimes palpitation, at other times a degree of syncope, or an overwhelming feeling of dissolution. The pulse varies from 100 to 120 or 130, and is attended with a forcible jerk or bounding of the artery.

"The respiration is apt to be frequent and hurried, and attended with alternate panting and sighing. The movement of expiration is sometimes obviously and singularly blended with a movement communicated by the beat of the heart; the patient requires the smelling bottle, the fan, and fresh air. In this state of exhaustion, sudden dissolution has sometimes been the immediate consequence of muscular effort on the part of the patient.

"The phenomena of excessive reaction are mostly observed in young persons of robust constitution, who have been subjected to repeated bloodletting. In infants, in feeble persons, and in rather advanced years, reaction after loss of blood is for the most part defective. In this case the patient long remains pale, thin, and feeble, and becomes faint on the slightest occasions: the pulse is frequent, but feeble, and perhaps irregular; and we look in vain for the throbbing and palpitation ob-

served in the young and robust. This state either gradually yields to returning strength, or subsides into the state of sinking. In the study of the effects of loss of blood, it is particularly necessary to bear in mind this difference of the phenomena arising out of the previous state of the constitution, whether of vigor or of feebleness."—P. 127-129.

These symptoms, indicative of exhaustion with excessive reaction, may gradually pass away, or they may give place to *sinking*. In this, the sensibility is diminished, there is a tendency to dozing, with snoring; stertor, or blowing up of the cheeks in breathing, a symptom which all must have observed in apoplectic affections. The patient is inattentive to what is passing around him; forgets his situation; requires a moment to recollect himself when spoken to, and soon relapses into dozing. In addition to these circumstances, our author has remarked "a crepitus in respiration, only to be heard at first on the most attentive listening;" this soon increases, passing into rattling in the throat. There is some degree of labor in the breathing, inducing acuteness in the nostrils, and occasionally a peculiar cough. The heart loses its palpitation, and the arteries their throbbing; the sto-

mach and bowels become affected with flatulence ; the will loses its command over the sphincters ; delirium, jactitation, and coldness of the extremities, mark the approach of dissolution. A very interesting and important case, illustrates some of the phenomena above mentioned, which, however, is unfortunately too long for quotation.

III. Dr. Hall next considers the effect of further loss of blood in cases of exhaustion, and states his belief that the symptoms of reaction have frequently been mistaken for those of inflammation of the head or heart ; under which impression, patients have been bled still further, the effect of this being the temporary relief of the symptoms. Here, as throughout the paper, we mark and bear testimony to the accuracy of the author's observations. It was some time before he could comprehend the nature of this fact, but at length he perceived that the symptoms relieved were those of reaction, and that the mode of relief consisted in the substitution of syncope. Yet, though relief be given for a time, the remedy eventually adds to the severity of the malady, in the majority of cases. It is to be observed, that reaction seldom supervenes from one depletion, however copious ; while the

repetition of this is very apt to produce it. When reaction has supervened, syncope very readily follows any copious loss of blood. " This fact is of importance, because it may be regarded as a sign of the state of exhaustion when obscured by the reaction of the system, and as a warning voice against the further and inconsiderate use of the lancet." When the depletion is still further repeated, then not merely syncope, but sinking, come on, and with them the train of phenomena already described.

IV. This section relates to the influence of various circumstances on the effects resulting from loss of blood. Of these, the strength is the first and most important, the degree of reaction being in proportion to it. In feeble constitutions, as in infancy and declining years, the reaction is defective, and the state of syncope is one of danger, so that a repetition of the bleeding is borne with difficulty. Just the reverse of this occurs in the robust when the reaction is strong : in these, indeed, the state of sinking is preceded by great reaction, unless the strength be overwhelmed by the extent of the evacuation. Other circumstances exerting an influence over the effects of bloodletting, are certain diseases ; and it is particularly stated by the author that " in-

testinal irritation leads to those effects of bloodletting which I have described as exhaustion ; whilst inflammation seems to protect the system from the effects of loss of blood :" so that, taking health as the medium, the presence of intestinal irritation would lead to the more speedy, and of inflammation to the more tardy, occurrence of exhaustion.

V. The effect of loss of blood on the internal organs is very little known. The author conjectures that effusion into the ventricles of the brain takes place ; and that there is, "even in cases of exhaustion from loss of blood, increased action or fulness of the vessels of the brain." There is certainly, in cases of great exhaustion from any evacuation, a tendency to serous effusion throughout the cellular membrane generally.

Dr. Hall purposes to investigate the *organic effects*, and especially the *remedies*, of loss of blood. To these we look forward with the anticipation of additional information on this interesting subject.

Lond. Med. and Phys. Jour.

ON THE HEALING OF WOUNDS
FROM BURNS AND SCALDS, BY
THE SCABEING PROCESS.

BY F. BUSH, ESQ. SURGEON.

The cicatrisation of surfaces extensively denuded of their natural covering, such as fre-

quently occur from burns and scalds, is generally a subject of some embarrassment, when treated in the ordinary method, and, from the tardiness of the operation, is productive of much pain and inconvenience to the subjects of them. This is more particularly the case when such injuries are inflicted on the trunk : the healing of such sores on the extremities is effected with less difficulty, as they can be placed under the influence of pressure, which cannot be so well employed to aid cures of this kind on the back, abdomen, chest, or neck. Indeed, I have seen the most severe and lengthened distress arise from such injuries ; the rapid growth of soft flabby granulations proving not only difficult to restrain, but retarding the skinning process, the sore pouring out large quantities of pus, and affecting the general health, so as to induce hectic fever, and even fatal consequences.

As the object of my paper is to call the attention to that stage of the injury which is secondary, I shall only advert to recent injuries of this sort, by offering my humble tribute of approval of the plan laid down by Dr. Kentish ; but as, where violent heat has been applied, notwithstanding the use of the most approved remedies, sloughing of the skin will take place, I shall take

up the subject just at that stage when the sore has put on a healthy granulating surface. Perhaps my plan of treatment will best admit of illustration by the recital of a few cases.

CASE I.—About seven years ago, a child of J. Burge was brought to me with a sore on the back, as large as a man's hand : it was situated just below the right scapula ; the surface was uneven, and the granulations morbidly soft, throwing out much pus, and bleeding on the slightest touch. I learnt that it had arisen from a burn, and had been very much in its then present state for two years, notwithstanding it had been under the care of a most respectable surgeon for some time, and had been subsequently dressed by various healing ointments, used empirically on such occasions. I determined that nothing of an unctuous character should be used, but that the edges of the sore should be touched daily with the liq. plumbi, applied by a camel's hair brush, and that the whole surface should be sprinkled over with flour or chalk, so as to form an artificial scab. Some portion of the scab was daily broken down, the matter discharged, and more flour used to promote the formation of a new scab. During the cure the child wore a loose dress, like

a petticoat tied round the neck, and everything, but the application before stated, kept as much as possible from coming in contact wth the sore : by these means, complete cicatrification had taken place in a month.

CASE II.—Miss Hooper, a young lady about twelve years of age, was dreadfully burnt on the neck and back, from her clothes taking fire : the injury was so severe that, for the week after the accident, her death was expected ; but the constitution was supported by stimulants and opium, and at length a slough, of a most frightful extent, was thrown off. For some time, calamine cerate, and an ointment prepared from oxyde of lead, were used to dress the wound ; but the discharge became so considerable, the granulation so redundant, and the case attended with so much constitutional disorder, that we again had reason to fear a fatal termination. Under these unfavorable circumstances, I had recourse to the use of the liqor plumbi, with which the edges of the sores were daily smeared, and wheaten flour sprinkled on the granulations, so as to encourage the formation of a scab. This plan was persevered in for a few weeks, the scab being occasionally broken down, and a new one formed in the same manner ;

the health soon improved; and the sore healed in half the time that I have seen required to accomplish the same object under the ordinary method of treatment.

CASE III.—J. Ashby, a boy about fourteen years of age, had his side severely burnt from a squib taking fire in his pocket: the heat was so intense, and so long applied, that there was considerable sloughing. After this had taken place, I had recourse to the liquor plumbi and flour; and the progress of the cure was so rapid, that both myself and patient's friends were perfectly satisfied with the superior efficacy of the plan of treatment.

I would add one remark on the treatment of scalds of the extremities, such as I have often witnessed on the feet and ankles of cooks and housemaids. When blistering has taken place, much relief is found from puncturing the bladders, and binding the limb evenly, and rather firmly, with strips of linen spread with emplastrum plumbi, on the plan recommended by Baynton for the cure of ulcerated legs. I have observed that the dressings do not require to be removed daily,—once in two days has answered with me; and, if the parts have become painful, cloths wet with cold water have been from time

to time employed with advantage, wrapped round the limb.—*Ib.*

Frome, July, 1825.

CASE OF HYDATID ASCITES.

By R. LONG, M.D.

Margaret Daly, aged 13 years, the child of parents in extreme poverty, after an imperfect recovery from typhous fever, was seized with a constant, and sometimes very acute, pain in the region of the umbilicus. Her appetite was voracious, bowels irregular, countenance squalid, and the whole body much emaciated. She was placed under an alterative mercurial course. Oil of turpentine emulsion was occasionally given, and a nutritious diet procured.

The abdomen, however, rapidly enlarged, and fluctuation was soon perceptible: tapping of the belly became, therefore, quickly necessary, and five quarts of fluid, nearly colorless, were drawn off. Notwithstanding the most persevering use of purgatives, diuretics and mercurials, paracentesis was performed five times, at intervals of three weeks only. The patient's strength was, however, greatly improved, the appetite good, and the emaciated appearance of the extremities much altered for the better.

After the last operation, a tumor formed at the umbilicus, resembling exomphalos, soft, and easily reducible on pressure. As the abdomen became again enlarged, this tumor increased to an enormous size; the integuments became thin and pellucid; and, when tapping was again required, I determined on performing the operation here, it being then evident that the tumor was formed by the dropsical contents of the abdomen. The first stroke of the lancet was followed by an immense rush of water, and subsequently the protrusion of several transparent vesicles, which, as they gradually emerged from the aperture, became

distended with water also. The chain of vesicles thus formed, and suspended by a pedicle as thick as the little finger, soon reached from the umbilicus to the floor on which the chair was placed in which the patient sat, presenting a resemblance to an immense bunch of grapes. I divided the pedicle at the umbilicus, and removed the entire mass; which at length convinced the bystanders that the child's intestines were not come out.

The wound, which was simply dressed with oiled lint, soon healed; the umbilicus resumed its natural appearance; all pain and uneasiness vanished; and, up to this period, now twelve months, there has not been the slightest return of dropsical disease, or other deviation from perfect health.—*Ib.*

Arthurstown, June, 1825.

CASE OF POISONING FROM OPIUM, WHEREIN READ'S STOMACH PUMP WAS SUCCESSFULLY EMPLOYED.

By J. ASHFORD, Esq. Surgeon.

Having lately succeeded, by the use of "Read's stomach pump," in a case where laudanum had been taken with the intent to poison, I am induced to send an account of it to the Medical and Physical Journal. Though the utility of this instrument is established beyond doubt, as yet it may be said to be new; so that every additional fact of its success will be of service, thereby tending to its early adoption in like cases; and as an inducement for practitioners in general to provide themselves with this most simple and effectual apparatus for removing poison from the stomach.

On the 30th of May last, I was requested to see Elizabeth Sandys, who, I was informed, was ill, in consequence of having, a short time previous, swallowed a quantity of laudanum, with opium, together. Being away from home when I was first sent for, and as no time should be lost, a scruple of the sulphate of

zinc was given, and the dose repeated in about ten minutes.

The time of my first seeing her was about twenty minutes from the first dose of the above medicine, and about three quarters of an hour from the time of swallowing the poison. There appeared no disposition to vomit, and the effects of the opium were sensibly increasing. I then mixed two teaspoonfuls of mustard, as it is prepared for domestic purposes, with four ounces of tepid water, as the readiest method of producing vomiting, which, under all circumstances, I was disposed to believe would effect the removal of the deleterious drug from the stomach. Very shortly after this, the patient vomited once, and plentifully: she appeared much relieved. I waited for some time, and, as the symptoms did not then indicate the necessity for further interference, I left the patient, directing them to suffer her to lie down, and, should it seem necessary, to send for me again.

About an hour after, I was desired to see her, as she had "gone fast asleep, the face becoming almost black, frothing at the mouth, and snoring very loud." These were the expressions used. As there remained this only remedy, I began the use of the syringe, and injected about three quarts of warm water into the stomach. The irritation of the fauces, produced by the introduction of the tube, disposed the stomach to get rid of its contents. This it partly did; and the rest was evacuated by means of the syringe. When nearly the whole of the fluid had been returned, there came the remaining part of the mustard emetic; and after this a darkbrown mucus, which I supposed to be the least unmixed portion of the laudanum. This I could not detect by the smell, as the mustard had wholly deprived the opium of its peculiar odor.

Having, as I supposed, done all possible, as far as related to the removal of the poison from the sto-

mach, by this means, my next object was to clear the intestines: this required strong and repeated doses, both of drastic and saline purgatives. The patient was not suffered to sleep till the cathartics had fairly acted on the bowels. Both before this was effected and for some time after, it was with difficulty she could be kept awake.

As might have been expected, fever followed, accompanied with hysterical paroxysms, which in a few days was subdued by the usual remedies, and the patient ultimately recovered. I have since ascertained that between two and three ounces of tincture of opium, and about half a scruple of crude opium, was the quantity taken.—*Ib.*

Hinckley, June 7, 1825.

BIOGRAPHY OF PROFESSOR BECLARD.

PETER AUGUSTINE BECLARD was born on the 12th of October, 1785, at Angers, in France. His parents were poor, but honest and much esteemed. Their only means of supporting a large family was a small shop. The original intention of the father was to bring his son up to his own trade, but Beclard evinced so early and so great a taste for study, that, with the persuasion of friends, he was placed in the academy of his native town. At this school botany seems to have claimed his particular attention, for we find him winning several prizes, distributed at the botanical garden of Angers. He did not, however, pursue, with ardor, botanical science alone, but the Natural Sciences generally, and is said to have always stood foremost in whatever scientific studies he undertook. About this time the celebrated *Bichat* was at the zenith of his glory, and his fame reaching Angers, as it did the most interior parts of France, and has since every part of the world where medical science is respected and cultivated, young Beclard was inspired with a spirit of emulation, and a desire to study the pro-

fession in which *Bichat* had so distinguished himself. But the inadequacy of his parents to give him a medical education damped his hopes, and he was sent off to Nantz, and put apprentice in a crockery store. But the dull manual employment of such a business was not suited to the genius of Beclard. His soaring spirit could not endure the menial office of selling and carrying home vessels of earthenware, for whatever uses they might be intended. He became, of course, inattentive to the interests of his master. Much of his time was consumed in reading books on science. The crockery ware merchant becoming exceedingly tired of his charge, sent him home to his parents with this consoling remark, “that he was really good for nothing.” He was afterwards placed in different stores in Tours and in Angers with the same result. His despairing parents now took him home. Being under the roof of his father, with no special employment, he would spend whole days together in his chamber, “cultivating his taste, and indulging in the rich luxury of study and meditation,” the society and amusements of youth not occupying a moment of his time. Being, at length, fully satisfied of the incapacity of their son for any employment unconnected with science, and being persuaded by friends to let him pursue the *natural bent of his mind*, the parents of Beclard entered him at the Hotel Dieu of Angers, for medical instruction, not anticipating for him any distinction greater than that of *Officier de Santé*, health officer. He had now entered the path that was to lead him to fame and distinction. In the short period of one year, his progress was so rapid and astonishing, that he was appointed one of the Resident Hospital Physicians. The duties of this station he continued to discharge, with unremitting assiduity, for four years. The hours not devoted to the duties of his office or

to study, he is said to have spent in the society of an Almoner of the institution, a man distinguished for his theological knowledge. Between these two friends there was a great disparity of years, but their friendship was not the less strong and sincere. This good old man, observing the powerful energies of mind of young Beclard, and foreseeing to what eminence these energies would lead, with suitable opportunities, importuned the family to send him to Paris for the accomplishment of his medical education, this being the centre of science, and holding out the greatest number of inducements for the developement of his rare powers. Thither he was accordingly sent. This was in 1808. A wide field was now opened to Beclard for the display of his talents, and for his improvement in his favorite studies. This field was not permitted by him to remain uncultivated. It was not long till he became conspicuous among the pupils. At the various *concours* held at the different hospitals in Paris, he discovered his superior talents. His constant display of superiority at *l'Ecole Practique*, the practical school, established by the Medical Faculty, soon led to his being pointed out as "the most brilliant pupil of this institution." The numerous displays of the unfolding genius of Beclard, at length arrested the attention of M. Roux, who took him into his family, and afterwards created him assistant Lecturer at the Hospital la Charité. It was not long after this till the Superintendency of the Anatomical Halls became vacated by the promotion of Dupuytren to the chair of Operative Surgery, lately held by the deceased Sabatier. To the Superintendency Beclard was chosen. He now commenced his private lectures on Anatomy and Surgery, which were successful without a parallel. In 1813 he obtained the honors of the *Doctorate*, and his thesis, on this occasion, is said to contain many original

ideas in Anatomy, Physiology, and Surgery. He was afterwards appointed Surgeon at the Hospital la Pitié. Advancing, with rapid strides, in distinguishment and in public estimation, Beclard was, in 1818, unanimously elected *Professor of Anatomy in the Faculty of Medicine in Paris*, which chair he held at the time of his transition from this world to a world where he shall ever be permitted to commune with the spirit of Bichat, and other similar and choice minds.

Having attained this high and important station, the subject of our brief remarks devoted his whole time and talents to the discharge of the arduous duties that devolved on him.

His great aim was to interest and instruct. In this his success was complete. His lectures were crowded to excess. His fame increased, and the abilities of Beclard became a subject of common conversation among those then in Paris for instruction in the Medical Sciences. His lectures are said not to have been eloquent, but were remarkable for their clearness and perspicuity. Notwithstanding his intimate acquaintance with the subjects of his professorship, yet "the preparation for a single lecture often cost him four or five hours."

Beclard's health began to fail. Too close an application to public duties had impaired his constitution. He had several times been attacked with chronic inflammation of the stomach, which had yielded to proper treatment. On the 5th of March, 1825, he was seized with an acute affection of the brain, which terminated fatally in eleven days. It is worthy of remark, in a *phrenological* point of view, that on opening the cranium of this distinguished individual, "the cerebral mass was very large, especially at its anterior lobes, which contrasted, in a very striking manner, with the moderate development of the posterior lobes."

The honors paid to the remains of

Beclard were such as manifested the high esteem in which he was held. In him the public had sustained a great loss, and his wife and family an inestimable treasure—for his public life had been as useful, brilliant, and undeviating, as his private had been amiable, accommodating, and virtuous. The funeral procession, passing through the principal parts of Paris, was composed of his numerous relatives and friends, the professors of the Medical Faculty and physicians generally, a large concourse of citizens, and upwards of two thousand medical students.

Of the numerous eulogies pronounced over the grave of Beclard, we beg leave to copy the following, being translated by the editors of the North American Medical and Surgical Journal, as the closing remarks of M. Roux.

"The large concourse of pupils assembled around this coffin,—the earnestness they have manifested to accompany with me, to this last abode, the teacher whose voice they heard not many days since,—whose lectures filled them with admiration, whilst they inspired them with a taste for study, and implanted in their minds the germs of useful knowledge; the tears which I see them shed,—the sincere affliction I see depicted in all countenances, and the few words I have said respecting the brilliant, but so short career of our colleague and friend,—all these, gentlemen, recall involuntarily to my mind the not less painful day, when paying to Bichat the last duties, I deposited on his tomb the last homage of a pupil he cherished. Beclard lived a few years longer than Bichat; but as the latter, he has merely *passed* among us. Like Bichat, he doubtless fell a victim to an excessive application. Like Bichat, he formed numerous disciples,—like Bichat, of whom he did not, perhaps, possess the creative genius, but to whom he was superior in other respects, he leaves behind him durable testimo-

nials of a true and rare talent. Like Bichat, Beclard will be ranked among those men, of whom nature is avaricious, and of whom the sciences have reason to be proud. Like Bichat, he carries along with him the regrets of students, who eagerly sought to hear him. Finally, like Bichat, he perceives his coffin surrounded with numerous friends, and his death plunge into affliction all who are able to appreciate, equally with talent, pure morals, integrity, and goodness of heart,—qualities which our colleague possessed in the highest degree."—*Ohio Med. Repository.*

NEW MEDICAL TREATISES.

The Physicians of our country have ever experienced much difficulty from the description and treatment of many diseases, as they are laid down in foreign systematic writers; and, what is of much more consequence, some of our fevers, which at times have extensively prevailed as epidemics, are not noticed at all by European authors.—Others are very inaccurately described; and consequently, a very imperfect treatment is recommended. These evils are every day lessening, from the exertions of the medical authors of our own country. Dr. Gregory's *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Physic*, has lately been published at Philadelphia, edited by Drs. Potter and Calhoun. The original work of Dr. Gregory, in many points of view, appears to be possessed of a higher character than any systematic treatise of his contemporaries. But what makes the present edition peculiarly valuable is, the notes and additions of the two learned editors, and the pains which they have taken to make it applicable to the diseases of this country. The introductory discourse, written by one of these gentlemen, is unquestionably one of the ablest specimens of medical Logic, that ever has appeared.

The venerable Thacher has also lately published at Boston, a new edi-

tion of his *Modern Practice*. He has likewise been particularly careful to adapt his work to the state of our country, and has fully treated of several of our diseases, which are either unknown or imperfectly described by foreign authors, and has enriched this edition by copious extracts from the occasional writings of the ablest American physicians.

These two works have the merit of great faithfulness and impartiality in addition to the well known talents of the authors and editors, and will do much towards filling up that chasm which has so long remained in the systematic medical treatises, as respects the nature and treatment of the diseases of America. No physician should consider his library as complete without them; they merit the reading and study of every practitioner of our country.

Middlesex Gaz.

TRUST AND SERENITY.

A military officer being at sea, in a dreadful storm, his lady, who was sitting near him, and filled with alarm for the safety of the vessel, was so surprised at his composure and serenity that she cried out, "My dear are you not afraid? How is it possible you can be so calm in such a storm?" He arose from a chair lashed to the deck, and supporting himself by a pillar of the bed place, he drew his sword, and pointing it to the breast of his wife, he exclaimed—'Are you not afraid?' She instantly replied, 'No, certainly not.'—'Why?' said the officer. 'Because,' rejoined the lady, 'I know the sword is in the hand of my husband, and he loves me too well to hurt me.' 'Then,' said he, 'remember I know in whom I have believed, and that he holds the winds in his fists, and the waters in the hollow of his hands.'

We scarcely know in what terms to mention an occurrence which took place on Wednesday morning

last. While Prof. Hoge was sitting alone, reading in his room in College, by a sudden contraction of the muscles, the bone of his thigh was badly fractured, so as to require setting in the usual manner of broken limbs. The pain he has suffered has been extreme, though somewhat abated since the setting.—*Athens, Ohio, pap.*

PRAYER.

The smiling sky is ever bright,
The earth is fair with flowers,
There comes no night, there falls no blight
On childhood's blissful hours ;—
Then pray—Heaven sees no sight so fair
As happy childhood bow'd in prayer.

The summer dew, the rainbow's hue
Are pure and lovely things—
And youth hath dreams as lovely too,
As pure imaginings ;—
They pass away, they pass away,
What charm can stay them? Kneel and pray.

Then comes the time of busy schemes,
And man must earn a name ;
His morning thought, his midnight dreams,
Are wealth, and power and fame ;
Heaven heeds them not,—one humble prayer
Would be a better passport there.

Age, thou art winter, cold and drear,
Without the hope of spring ;
Thy strength is gone, thy leaf is sear,
Thy root is withering ;
And earth has nothing worth thy care ;—
Yet pray,—for heaven is won by prayer.

AN EPIGRAM ON MISS EDGEWORTH.
We every day bards may "Anonymous"
sign ;
This refuge, Miss Edgeworth, can never
be thine ;
Your writings where satire and moral
unite,
Must bring forth the name of their author
to light.
Good and bad join in telling the source of
their birth,
For the bad feel their *edge*, and the good
own their *worth*.

MISFORTUNES.

I never knew any man in my life
who could not bear another's misfor-
tunes perfectly like a Christian.

Swift.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1827.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

MR. EDITOR,—Agreeably to your request, I have the pleasure to furnish you with the following history of the wine which I have prepared for some time past from the *officinal black currant*. About twenty years ago I cultivated a few plants only, for the purpose of making a *jelly* or *preserve* for family use; and some of it happening to be on the table when I was favored with the company of that estimable man and eminent physician, the late Dr. John Warren, a conversation ensued on its medicinal qualities, which he highly extolled, and expressed a strong desire that the confectioners in Boston should be supplied with the *fruit*, observing that the Faculty would often prescribe the *Jelly* or *Rob* if it could be procured. In consequence of his suggestions I was induced to increase the plantation, and in a few years was enabled to supply the confectioners with more fruit than they wanted. For the demand being uncertain, and as the article would seldom retain its virtues more than one year, three or four bushels only could be annually disposed of. About this time I met with an HERBAL, written by the late celebrated Dr. Heberden, of London; in which, after describing the species or varieties of currants, he states that the medicinal properties of wine made from the *red* or *white currant*, are much superior to those of wine from the *grape*, as it may be administered in many cases of *fever*, where the latter would be too heating. No mention was made of wine from the *black currant*, but the doctor remarks, that “a *Jelly* or *Rob* from this fruit was considered almost a specific for sore throat, and highly efficacious when exhibited with barley water and other beverage, in fevers, particularly in the low stages of typhus.” The idea then occur-

red, that I could not do better with my black currants than to manufacture them into wine, as I felt confident that it might be made to possess all the mild *stimulating* qualities of the other kinds of currant wine, combined with the more valuable *astringent* and *detergent* properties so conspicuous in the *jelly*. It would be as convenient to administer,—and, what was of great importance, not liable to deteriorate by age. Accordingly I commenced operations with no small portion of enthusiasm; and notwithstanding a complete failure in all my experiments for four years in succession, with considerable loss of time and money, I persevered till a wine was produced which equaled my most sanguine expectations, and which I ventured to exhibit to most of the principal physicians in Boston, several of whom immediately began to prescribe it, and have continued the practice, as have others also in the vicinity, for eight or nine years. Being desirous to test its capacity to withstand a *hot climate*, a parcel was shipped to Savannah, where it remained in a store on the *bluff* two summers, and was returned perfectly sound and much improved.

Some years since I was unable, one season, to inspect the process, and, though the person employed received very particular directions, the quality proved inferior, and the reputation of the wine may have suffered in consequence. But I have of late introduced important improvements in the preparation; and that which is now exhibited will, I trust, be found to be superior to any before produced. But to arrive at this result it has demanded minute personal attention in every stage of the process—from the cultivation of the plants till the wine is fit for the bottle; and its remaining previously for a period of four or five years in the wood, seems requisite to bring it to that state of perfection of which it is susceptible. It may be proper to

add that, besides the water necessary, this wine contains not a particle of *foreign substance* except sugar, and two per cent of *brandy*, which is introduced at a stage of the process when it appears to return to its original vinous state, and is of course completely incorporated.

I remain, dear Sir, truly yours,
SAMUEL WYLLYS POMEROY.

We are glad to see and to publish this account of the *Black Currant Wine*, because we have been acquainted with its character and effects for several years, and think so well of it that we wish everybody else to know it as well, and to estimate it as highly as we do. So far as we can trust our own experience and observation, we deem this wine more truly cordial and medicinal than any which we have seen used by invalids and convalescents. It has all the good properties of the best Port, without any of its heating or constipating effects. We could name several instances where in great debility and exhaustion after protracted and severe fever, and from other causes, nothing else could be thought of or taken with pleasure or advantage, in which this wine proved grateful to the palate, and most friendly to the stomach; in which indeed it was the principal means of conducting the patient to health and strength.

Its exhibition has been attended with remarkable success in the early stages of cholera and dysentery,—and again also in the later stages of these disease, after the symptoms of inflammation or febrile excitement had ceased. It has been strikingly remedial in the low states of typhoid and bilious fever. The late Captain

Gilchrist, who for several years followed the Batavia trade, and who had always suffered an attack of the severe cholera which proves so destructive of human life in that climate, used to say that after he had this wine with him and took two glasses of it every morning, he escaped the disease. On one voyage, his mate, who had not taken the wine, was seized with this complaint, when a bottle or two stopped its further progress. We have not room to enumerate many other morbid affections in which this wine has proved useful. In *sore throat* it has, for many years, been considered almost a specific remedy.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—We are obliged to Dr. Wilson, of Salisbury, N. H., for his past communications, and will gratefully receive anything further from his pen.—The inquiries of S. shall be attended to next week; and so shall the paper of Dr. Smith.

DICTIONARY.

FOR THE LAST WEEK AND THIS.

Aorta, the great artery or blood-vessel which passes out from the left side of the heart, distributing blood, through its branches, to the whole system.

Diaphragm, a strong muscle which divides the thorax or chest, from the abdomen, or lower belly.

Emplastrum plumbi, lead plaster.

Exomphalus, or *os*, an umbilical hernia, or rupture of the navel.

Liquor plumbi, a liquid preparation of lead.

Paracentesis, tapping, as in drop-sy, to discharge any fluid.

Syncope, fainting.

Stertorous breathing, a noisy kind of respiration, as is observed in apoplexy, &c.

Umbilicus, the navel.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

DR. HULL'S TRUSS.

THE very great superiority of this instrument over every other heretofore invented, as to convenience, ease, and comfort to the wearer, and its curative power, is shown by the testimony of respectable physicians, and the formal approbation of Medical Societies, but more than all by the actual cures it has performed. For a more particular description of this Truss, see the last Edition, 1826, of Thacher's Modern Practice.

Ebenezer Wight, Apothecary, Milk Street, opposite Federal Street, has just received an assortment of Umbilical and Inguinal Trusses.

March 6th.

ATHENEUM :
OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.
FOR MARCH 1, 1827,

JUST published by John Cotton, 184 Washington St. corner of Franklin St.

CONTENTS.—Marriages—Parthian Darts—A Father's Grief—Blanche D'Albi—Ballad—Mentelle—The Brotherhood of Mercy—The Two Fathers—The Audience and the Visit—Tarshish—Anecdote of a Hyena—Method of Gilding Live Fish—Prison Life—Revenge on Bankers—Half a Dozen Bon Mots, Bulls, &c.—Death of a Tiger—Scotch Macheath; or Retribution—Mrs. Siddons—Living Pictures—Rival Landlords Hoaxed.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

JUST published by WAIT, GREENE & Co. No. 13, Court street, the American Journal of Education, Vol. II. No. II. for February, 1827.

CONTENTS.—*Miscellaneous Articles.*—Improvement of University Education—Defects in the System of liberal Education—Suggestions to Parents—Moral Education.

Reviews.—Rev. Wilbur Fisk's Introductory Address at the opening of the Wesleyan Academy in Wilbraham, Mass.—Public Education; Plans for the Government and liberal Instruction of Boys, as practised at the Hazelwood School, London.

Intelligence.—*Public Attention to Education.*—Gov. Morrow's Message to the Legislature of Ohio—Gov. Trimble's In-

augural Address—Gov. Kent to the Legislature of Maryland—Gov. E. Lincoln to the Legislature of Maine—Gov. Clinton to the Legislature of New York—Gov. L. Lincoln to the Legislature of Massachusetts—Gov. Burton to the Legislature of North Carolina—Missionary Efforts for Education—Education in South America—Kenyon College, Ohio—Yale College, Conn.—Brown University, R. I.—Mount Pleasant School, Amherst, Mass.—Improvement of Public Schools.

Notices.—*Works in the Department of Education.*—Lectures for Sunday Evenings—Juvenilia.

WEBSTER'S CHEMISTRY.

RICHARDSON & LORD, No. 133, Washington street, have lately published a Manual of CHEMISTRY, by J. W. WEBSTER, M. D., Adjunct Irving Professor of Chemistry in Harvard University.

This work has been adopted as a textbook in the University at Cambridge: at the United States Military Academy, West Point; at Amherst, Burlington, Williams' and Washington Colleges; Castleton Medical School, and at several other Colleges and Medical Schools in the United States.

Orders for the work received by the publishers.

DR. PARSONS, SURGEON DENTIST,
NO. 17, WINTER STREET,

DEVOTES himself to OPERATIONS ON THE TEETH, and to the treatment of such diseases as usually fall to the department of the Dentist. Dr. P. has for many years given his particular attention to the construction of *Artificial Teeth*, either in entire sets, or in parts of sets; and is enabled to secure them in such a manner that they will be firm, durable, and useful.

THE two first of the following works were translated from the French, and the others written, by the Editor, and are for sale at this Office.

BRERA on Worms.

BICHAT on the Membranes.

Discourses on Warm and Cold Bathing. A dissertation on Medical Education, and on the Medical Profession.

Remarks on the Dangers and Duties of Sepulture.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1827.

NO. 43.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

CROTON OIL.

Mr. EDITOR—This article seems of late, to be much talked of, and frequently prescribed, by many of the profession; and, as I have good reason to believe, often in most unwarrantable quantities, and without any rational intention, or just views of its properties or effects. There seems, indeed, to be something of magic in its very name—which, to certain physicians, has a very imposing sound.

I have no doubt, that it may be, in some instances, a valuable remedy; but for one, I should like to learn something more of its medicinal properties, and of its particular application to the removal of disease. I therefore, would beg leave to offer the following queries:

1st. In what particular cases and states of disease is it indicated?

2d. What is the largest dose that may be given with safety?

3d. If a considerable dose be given, without any cathar-

tic operation, what would probably be its effects?

4th. Should it be administered where there is evidence of inflammation in the alimentary canal? S.

Bangor, Me. Feb. 24, 1827.

We will cheerfully impart to our correspondent S. whatever information we can command in reply to his inquiries, and in this attempt we cannot do better than to copy the following account of the Croton oil from BIGELOW's Sequel to the U. S. Pharmacopœia.

Croton tiglum. W. IV. 543. Semina. The seeds.

Though this article is not in the American Pharmacopœia, yet the attention it has excited of late in the European journals, furnishes a reason for offering some account of it in the present work.

ORIGIN. The *Croton tiglum* is a shrubby plant of India, which has been medicinally employed there from a remote period. Both the seeds and their expressed oil have been long used in that country, and specimens, particularly of the latter, have been lately imported into England. They

have, in that country, undergone sufficient trials to prove that they constitute a powerful, and, in all probability, a useful medical agent.

QUALITIES. The seeds, of which each capsule contains three, are of the size of a small bean, oblong, roundish on the outside, and slightly angular within. They are covered, with a thin, brittle, greyishgreen coating or shell, and are whitish within. Their taste is at first mild and pleasant, but after remaining a few moments in the mouth, it is intensely acrid and burning. The interior or kernel consists, according to Dr. Nimmo, of 27 parts of an acrid purgative principle, 33 of fixed oil, and 40 of farinaceous matter.

USES. These seeds form one of the most powerful, speedy and certain cathartics, which have been introduced into the *Materia Medica*, from the vegetable kingdom. A single grain of the kernel, or about one third part of a seed, purges with such vehemence as not always to be safe. A drop of the expressed oil likewise produces powerful catharsis. From different writers cited by Professor Murray, it appears that the seed in substance has been used in India as a drastic purgative in dropsy; that it has been effectual in expelling the tape worm; that the oil taken in

the dose of one drop diffused in wine is a common purge in that country; and that it is found to operate, if only rubbed on the umbilical region.

A number of British practitioners, who have lately made trial in that country of the seeds and oil of croton, have published in the journals very decisive accounts of the efficacy of this medicine. It appears from their reports, that the oil, given in doses even of half a minim, operates speedily and copiously, occasioning nausea and griping in a small proportion only of the cases in which it has been tried. A tincture of the seeds was administered by Dr. Nimmo in more than a hundred instances, out of which, "in not more than three or four cases, was vomiting produced, and that not in a violent degree; in not many more was nausea felt; in all the cases purging was induced in a space of time between half an hour and three hours after taking the medicine; the purgative effects were generally moderate, accompanied with griping rarely, and in proportion generally to the effect which was intended to be produced."

Being accidentally in possession of a small parcel of croton seeds at the time when I first perceived the notices of this article in the English journals, and my attention hav-

ing a short time before been recalled to a striking instance of their powerful effect;* I prepared a tincture by triturating the seeds in alcohol in the proportion of about six grains to the fluid ounce. Of this liquid, when digested and filtered, I found a fluid drachm, and sometimes less, to operate with certainty, occasioning not more inconvenience than other purgatives, except that in a few instances it left for sometime an uncomfortable sense of heat in the mouth and stomach. In one case a physician, who used it at my request, informed me, that it caused a free salivation of a number of hours' continuance.

In the present state of the examination, we are authorized to consider the croton as a stimulating, drastic and sure purgative, well adapted to the treatment of dropsy, paralysis,

tænia and other diseases requiring medicines of its class. It seems also adapted to apoplexy, though in one case of this disease a large dose failed to move the bowels. The small bulk required for a dose is much in favor of its employment as a common purge in many cases of less magnitude, provided future experiments shall confirm the safety and convenience of its operation.

EXHIBITION. The most eligible form of exhibition for this medicine remains to be settled. It appears to have been tried in three different modes. 1.—The substance. The great violence of its operation in this form, arising probably from its being concentrated and acting on particular parts of the mucous coat of the intestines, will probably prevent it from being used in this shape. 2.—The oil in the dose of a minim. This is a more common form, and is very effectual, since the oil holds the cathartic principle in solution, though, when freed from it, it becomes inert. The oil is still too concentrated to act without pain, and requires to be diffused either by making it into pills with some dry substance, or by blending it with syrup or mucilage. The principal objection against the use of the oil is its liability to adulteration. 3.—The tincture. This may be made from the

* A gentleman of this city, having received some greenhouse seeds from Calcutta, among which were those of *Croton tiglium*, was induced by the appearance of the latter to taste one of them. It proving not immediately unpleasant, he chewed and swallowed about half the seed. In a few minutes a great sensation of heat came on in the fauces and throat, like that occasioned by the *ranunculi*; this feeling extended to the stomach and bowels; and in less than half an hour a violent cathartic operation commenced and was repeated more than twenty times in three hours. A profuse perspiration, fainting and some vomiting also took place. The pain was represented as extreme, exceeding that of a surgical operation which some years before he had undergone. A table spoonful of olive oil, which was taken during the operation, afforded great relief to the pain.

oil, or directly from the seeds. Alcohol is found to dissolve all the acrid principle of the oil, leaving it mild and insipid. It, in like manner, extracts the acrimony from the seeds. The tincture conveys the medicine to the stomach in a diluted state, and promotes its equable diffusion over the lining membrane of this organ, a circumstance which has been supposed greatly to promote its easy and favorable operation. The following is the tincture which I have used :

Take of Croton seeds, bruised, two scruples and a half.

Alcohol, half a pint.

Triturate the seeds thoroughly with a small part of the alcohol; then add the rest; digest ten days, and filter. *Dose* about a fluid drachm.

The shell of the seeds, according to Hermann, is purgative, but Dr. Nimmo found that they did not possess the characteristic acrimony of the plant.

Mr. Bampfield, in the 49th volume of the London Medical and Physical Journal, says :—

The way to prepare the seeds is as follows :—Take the seeds of the croton, *grana tiglia*, which, after being enveloped by a small ball of fresh buffaloe's dung, about the size of a sparrow's egg, put on some burning charcoal till the dung is burnt dry;

then removing them, and taking off the shells from the seeds, pound the nuclei, and divide into two pills,—namely, two out of each grain of the mass. The mass is generally mixed with some honey, to give it bulk and consistency. The advantage derived from the abovementioned process is that, in the first place, it facilitates the removal of the shells; secondly, it renders the nucleus more fit for pounding; and, thirdly, the gentle torrefaction it undergoes corrects, in a great degree, its natural acrimony. One pill of the above is sure to operate; two pills a full dose: an excess in the dose acts violently on the stomach. It is a powerful evacuant of the bile; and, by the Malays, is administered successfully as a hydragogue.

The root of this was formerly regarded, at Batavia and Amboyna, as a specific in dropsy, taken infused in wine.

At Benares, they boil the seeds soft in milk, stripping them first of the shells; after which they pound them, forming the mass by means of lime-juice, at the rate of one pill from each seed: two of these pills are considered a full dose. A mode in Guzerat is still more simple, and consists merely in pounding the kernels, without any previous operation, and forming, by

means of honey, from each nucleus two pills; one of which generally suffices for a drastic purge, directing a gill of warm water to be taken immediately after swallowing the pill. In this preparation, the inherent acrimony of the kernels makes up for the smallness of the dose; and the water drank on it insures, they say, its speedy operation downwards.

The chief advantage of these pills appears to me to be the smallness of the bulk necessary to obtain the desired effect. None of the drastic purges are so certain; none more rapid in their action; and none, I think, so little annoying by griping or nausea. Five hundred doses may easily be contained in an ordinary pillbox.

Dr. Kinglake, in the 50th volume of the same Journal, observes:—

Croton oil, from the smallness of the dose in which it is efficient, and the flavorless concealment with which it may be given, in the form of either pill or bolus, is preferable to spirit of turpentine, if its remedial effects in obstinate constipation be fully equal to those of this article. It is, however, an advantage to have two such potent agents at hand, supplying an alternative, if either should fail in procuring the necessary evacuation.

Croton oil seems to act expeditiously and commodiously

in the form of pill. It may be made into this shape with either crumb of bread, honey, conserve of roses, extract of *hyoscyamus*, that of *coccygineum*, *jalap*, or any other similar vehicle. As the concentrated strength of the oil in the dose of one drop is well borne on the stomach, without inducing either a sense of excessive heat, sickness, or pain, it is probably the most efficient and advantageous form of administering it. Were it to be more diluted by being mixed with an aqueous or any other fluid, its power would, perhaps, be too much attenuated to enable it to act with the promptitude that may prevent the nauseating and other inconveniences that would be likely to result from a slower and less decided exertion of its cathartic power. Swallowed as an *oleosaccharum*, by gradual solution, it has operated speedily and without molestation.

Though it may be expedient first to try, in all instances of obstructed bowels, the effect of common purgatives, yet it would not be advisable to delay the more efficient aid that may be derived from either croton oil or spirit of turpentine for an indefinite period, lest gangrene should supervene, which would render the evacuating power of either of these remedies unavailing. In hernial obstruction of

the intestinal canal, the attempt to replace the prolapsed portion of the bowel within its natural cavity, is too often fruitlessly protracted, till sphacelus has been produced, after which the operation of dilating the abdominal ring by incision can afford no benefit. In these cases, the effectual relief derivable from a seasonable use of the knife should not be postponed till irremediable mischief has been incurred; nor should the powerful influence of croton oil and spirit of turpentine, when necessary, be deferred till the vital power of the intestines be too much sunk and disorganized to admit of being salutarily excited.

Taunton, June, 1823.

P. S.—Since writing the above observations on the medicinal effects of croton oil, a case of a very extraordinary and instructive description of obstructed intestines has fallen under my professional notice, in which this powerful cathartic ultimately succeeded. The patient was a female, aged about twentyfive, who had long been habitually subject to constipated bowels, arising from dyspeptic and other causes, inducing an atonic and torpid state of the alimentary canal. In the instance referred to, the customary costiveness became unyieldingly obstinate. The various cathar-

tic medicines that are in general actively efficient were, during three days, unavailingly given. Clysters, likewise, of the most stimulating and powerful kind, were added to the medical attempt to produce on the peristaltic power a transmitting or purgative action. Croton oil, to the extent of one drop every hour, in three successive instances, had been fruitlessly taken. In common with all other cathartic remedies, each dose was rejected from the stomach within an hour after it was swallowed. At this period my attendance was desired in consultation, when it was determined that the croton oil, as holding a decided precedence as a rapid and powerful purgative, should be repeated every hour till either the desired effect should be produced, or an objection to its continuance, on the score of its being insufferably stimulating, should arise.

Pursuant to this arrangement, two additional doses were given, of two drops each, at intervals of one hour; but the nausea, vomiting, and pain, that ensued, having been attributed to the inefficiency of the remedy, the patient could not be induced to persist in any further trial of its power. Three additional days, making altogether six, elapsed without evacuation from the bow-

els having been procured, during which time two ounces of rectified spirit of turpentine, and other powerful cathartic medicines, were administered, and the patient also diluted copiously with a saturated solution of phosphate of soda. At this period, every article that was swallowed was speedily rejected with great violence, accompanied with a sense of the most acute spasmodic pain about the obstructed portion of the bowels. There was but little or no abdominal tension, and external pressure was borne without much inconvenience. The general arterial action was not much excited; the skin was open and steadily moderate in its temperature, and no chilliness or rigor occurred.

The patient appeared to be inexorably repugnant to all further medicinal attempts for relief, but was, however, at length prevailed on to swallow an ounce of quicksilver, which was done in two instances at intervals of one hour. A feeling of oppression followed this last remedy, but it did not at all pervade the obstructed part. This was the sixth day of the obstruction, without any relief having been effected. All medical attendance and endeavor to overcome the complaint were now absolutely prohibited; the persuasion of the patient, as well as

the sympathy of surrounding friends, conceiving that any further attempt to relieve would not only be useless, but would aggravate the existing pain, and render the closing scene of life more afflicting. In this abandoned state, the patient resolutely continued till the twelfth day of the constipation, taking only a few drops of tincture of opium two or three times a day, to lull pain and to smooth, as was expressed, the road to dissolution. Accident afforded me an opportunity, on the eighth day of the constipation, and on the second after all medical aid had been peremptorily refused, to contrive the introduction of four drops of croton oil in the dose of opiate medicine that was, by the patient's own desire, taken at intervals. This quantity of the oil produced a searching kind of excitement throughout the intestines, that occasioned a decided objection to even repeating the opiate, lest the uneasy sensation should be increased by it. During three days a sense of violent forcing was experienced in the bowels, accompanied with occasional vomiting. At length, on the fourth day of this propulsive sensation, the obstruction gave way, and copious discharges of scybalaous, darkcolored and extremely fetid substances ensued. The evacuations con-

tinued without medicine, at short intervals, during the ensuing twentyfour hours. The previous vomiting, pain, and every other diseased feeling, soon subsided; the patient became decidedly convalescent, and has since regained her former state of health.

The practical reflection that suggests itself in this singularly wayward case, is that the cathartic power of the croton oil was not steadily applied and exerted after it was commenced. The vomiting that ensued, and the additional pain that it seemed to have occasioned, were no sufficient objection to assiduously persisting in its use, knowing that symptoms of active inflammation were not produced, and that, if the intestinal canal were mechanically pervious, the desired effect would possibly, sooner or later, result from its progressive influence. Intestinal obstruction from hernia, intussusception, and stricture obliterating the canal, opposes perhaps insuperable barriers to the powers, as well of croton oil, as of all other modes of medicinal aid; but the existence of such a state is always conjectural, and therefore can never be sufficiently evident to preclude the expediency of making attempts to overcome the obstacle to the utmost point of trial. If croton oil had been unremittingly

given in suitable doses, and at proper intervals, when it was relinquished, the ultimate relief that was afforded by its desultory and unconnected use would probably have been produced at a much earlier period, and have exempted the patient from indescribable suffering, and the most imminent risk of a mortal issue. The four drops of the remedy that were by contrivance unconsciously conveyed into the first passages, through the medium of the opiate vehicle, succeeded in removing the obstruction after the lapse of four days from the time they were given. Had this dose been followed by another of an equal, or even less, power after a short interval, the eventual relief would most likely not have been so long delayed.

The case, on the whole, is highly interesting, in at once vindicating the cathartic power of croton oil from insufficiency, and demonstrating the error of ever abandoning obstructed bowels as irremediable, whilst the ability to swallow remains, and the evidence of existing gangrene is doubtful.

Another case of unyielding obstruction of the bowels was, so late as yesterday, placed under my professional direction, in which, after two days and nights had been consumed in unprofitably administering

various powerful cathartic medicines at short intervals, one drop of croton oil, formed into a pill, with three grains of the compound extract of colocynth, removed the obstruction in the course of twenty minutes after it was swallowed. The direction was to repeat the dose every hour till the bowels should be freely moved; the discharge, therefore, having not been, in the estimation of the patient's attendants, sufficiently copious within an hour of the time of giving the first pill, a second, containing another drop of the oil, was taken, which was speedily followed by profuse evacuations. The relief derived from the cathartic operation of the croton oil was early, and, as usual, all that could be desired. No additional pain, that the patient could distinguish from that which was induced by the morbid obstruction, was experienced from the influence of the oil; the previous vomiting ceased, the tension of the abdomen became less, and the pain which had been felt on pressure was greatly diminished.

The patient was a house-painter, and had been occupied in that pursuit when the obstruction began, and became painful; it may therefore be regarded as an instance of *colica pictonum*, and it appeared to be a case of a very severe

and portentous description. Previous to taking the oil, all medicine, in common with every domestic article that was swallowed, was speedily rejected by vomiting. The oil was retained, and, by its peculiar efficiency on the contractile or peristaltic power of the intestines, rapidly removed the existing obstruction, and thereby obviated the fatal termination which imminently threatened the case, if seasonable aid had not been obtained.

CASTOR OIL.

The processes generally employed for the extraction of the oil from the seeds of the *ricinus*, are, by boiling in water and by expression. The former is expensive, from the quantity of fuel it requires, and affords but a small proportion of oil, which becomes in some degree empyreumatic, from the heat necessary to separate the mucilage. By the second, a milder oil is obtained, it is true, but it is extracted with difficulty, from its viscosity and the great quantity of mucilage which accompanies it. These difficulties are overcome by the following process, founded on the property possessed by alcohol of dissolving the oil, and separating the mucilage. It consists in mixing the seeds, deprived of their rind, and beaten into a paste with a certain quantity of alcohol, four ounces to the pound, at 36 degrees, of the centigrade thermometer; this mixture is subjected to the press; the liquid flows with great facility, and is afterwards distilled; the residue of the distillation washed with many waters. The oil separated by the water is placed on a gentle fire, to evaporate all the moisture; it is

then taken from the fire and thrown on filters and placed on a stove heated to 30 degrees; it filters freely, and the oil obtained is very free and very mild. The products constantly obtained in this way by M. FAGUOR, are ten ounces of oil from each pound of the peeled seeds, and only seven ounces with the rinds on. These products greatly exceed the quantity obtained by the old methods. M. HENRY obtained a still larger proportion of oil, the difference probably depending on the superior force of his press. Half the quantity of alcohol employed may be recovered by the distillation.—*Journal de Pharmacie*, October, 1822.

TO DISSOLVE INDIA RUBBER.

A friend in Charlestown informs us that by keeping India Rubber in warm neat'sfoot oil for two or three days, it will become completely dissolved. A composition of India Rubber and neat'sfoot oil would probably render boots impervious to the water,—a desideratum this wet weather.—*N. E. Farmer.*

From the Quarterly Journal of Foreign Medicine.

CASE IN WHICH A FOREIGN BODY REMAINED SEVEN YEARS IN THE TRACHEA.

In 1821, a young man, aged seventeen, applied to WALThER, affected with phthisis, from the claw of a crawfish which he had swallowed in 1811, and which had got into the trachea, and remained in the right bronchia, occasioning violent convulsions, coughing, and hemoptysis. Oil of sweet almonds, followed by opiates, purgatives, assafoetida, and corrosive sublimate, eased the cough; and he thought, as he became easier, that the claw must have been removed. There remained, however, phthisis, which was followed by cramps, which did not yield to bathing. Up to 1814, he expectorated pus, and had repeated feverish attacks, in spite of pitchvapor baths

and Dover's powder. He had subsequently a brainfever, strong convulsions, chorea, strabismus, and somnambulism. Sometime after he was seized with an irresistible desire to bite, and, when he could find nothing else, he bit his own hands. He afterwards had distressing optical illusions, and could not look on anything black without screaming. He lost the sense of taste, and it was painful for him to utter a sentence. His limbs were then paralysed; and he took a great passion for cutting and piercing instruments, and, when alone, he cut and stabbed himself. Sometimes he sought to strangle himself; but, after the excess of the furious fit was over, he complained of great fatigue, and of uncommon pains. For two years he amused himself like an infant, during all which time the cough and expectoration continued. After a time his paralysis was partly removed again, and he began to walk and to try medicines, all of which he had given up. Everything was tried,—blisters, anthelmintics, camphor, musk, bark, calomel, aloes, hellebore, laurel water, iron, zinc, &c. and all without success. In 1815, his nervous symptoms returned during winter, and disappeared again without medicine in spring. In autumn they again returned, more violently than ever, and his expectoration contracted a very remarkable fetor. He bruised everything he could come at, and had a strong propensity to leap out of the window, which he once accomplished from the first floor. His appetite was gone, and his bowels torpid. In January, 1816, he lost his voice, his sight, and his hearing; but these he recovered in the succeeding summer; and, the year following, the same circumstances occurred. In 1818, he lost his appetite, and could only take bread, honey, and coffee. Medicines were again tried, with no avail.

On the 27th of April, 1818, after a violent coughing for several days,

he brought up the claw of the crawfish, with a great quantity of pus; and this put him in great hopes of a cure. In 1819, he had a quotidian fever, which was subdued by bark, myrrh, and acetate of lead. In 1820, he took no medicine. During the winter of 1821, he complained of pains in his side, and spit up blood. He tried the vapor of tar and sulphur: the expectoration ceased, he recovered his health, and can now attend to his business.—GRAFE and WALTHER's *Journ. der Chir. and Augenheil.*

Dr. James Thacher, of Plymouth, is preparing for publication Biographical Sketches of eminent Physicians of the United States, deceased; and proposes to extend his researches even to the early settlement of the country. Dr. Thacher is very competent to such a work; he has great industry and good judgment.—The several volumes which he has given the public have been well received; particularly his "Military Journal," of which there is soon to appear a second edition. The biographical notices are derived from authentic sources, and must be interesting to the statesman and antiquary, as well as to the physician; for many of our distinguished patriots were physicians. We have seen some parts of the MSS. and have no doubt of the popularity of the work.

Boston Gazette.

A Composition for coloring and preserving Gates, Poles, Barns, Roofs, and Timber generally, from the weather.—Melt 12 oz. of resin in an iron pot or kettle, add 3 gallons of train oil, and three or four rolls of brimstone; when they are melted and become thin, add as much Spanish brown or red or yellow ochre, or any other color you like, ground fine as usual with oil, as it will give the whole the shade wanted. Then lay it on with a brush as hot and as

thin as you can. Some days after the first coat is dried, lay on a second.

It is well attested that this will preserve plank for years, and prevent the weather from driving through brick work.—*Domestic Encyclopedia.*

USE OF THE RED SULPHATE OF IRON.

M. BRACCONOT, of Nancy, has discovered that this salt, the persulphate of iron, possesses an astringent and antiseptic property in the highest degree. It is very cheap, and combines, with the greatest facility, with all the humors and soft tissues of animals, and preserves them both from putrefaction and from insects. A brain, which had been plunged for three months in a solution of this salt, being placed in a warm place, required a considerable time to dry it, but without showing the least sign of putridity: placed afterwards in water, it was still preserved for some time, but did not recover its pristine softness. Portions of the liver, spleen, lungs, and muscle, placed in this mixture, have equally resisted destruction.

The preparation of this salt is very easy: it consists in calcining the green sulphate of iron till it acquires a red color.—*Archives Generales, Juin.*

WEATHER GUAGE.

The Dublin Philosophical Journal contains a description of the weather guage, for which a patent has lately been taken out by a gentleman named DONOVAN. This ingenious instrument shows the number of cubical and perpendicular inches of rain that fall during a given period; the precise hour, minute, day of the week, and of the month, when they fall, and whether by day or night. It also points out the commencement and cessation of showers: while it is raining, a bell rings quickly or slowly, according to the force of the shower; and the guage also shows the day of the month, the day of the week and the hour of the day. It

registers the intensity of the rain for the whole year, so that by reference it may be ascertained whether it rained fast or slow at any particular period. It keeps a separate account of rain for every hour, day, week, month, or year; and spontaneously separates the weekly accounts from each other every Saturday night at 12 o'clock, and at the same hour at the termination of every month, of whatever number of days it may consist.—Many other services are performed by this instrument, which is, undoubtedly, one of the most curious and useful of the kind ever invented.

In an action for assault and battery, it was deemed proper to ascertain the size of a certain stone, with which it was alleged the battery was committed. For this purpose a witness was called to the stand, and the following brief report of his examination will show how perfectly his testimony must have satisfied the jury.

Q. Did you see the defendant throw the stone? A. I saw a stone, and am pretty sure defendant threw it. Q. Was it a stone of considerable dimensions? A. Why, it was a considerable of a stone. Q. How large was it? A. I should say it was a largish stone. Q. What was its size? A. Why, it was a sizeable stone. Q. Can't you answer definitively—how big was it? A. I should say it was a stone of some bigness. Q. You are a singular witness—can't you give the jury some idea of the stone? A. Why, as near as I can recollect, it was something of a stone. Q. Can't you compare it with some other object? A. Why, if I were to compare it, so as to give my notion of the stone, I should say, as near as I can judge, it was as big as a piece of chalk.

LOOK AT THIS.

Every woman should know her own weak points, and employ all her reason and ingenuity to strengthen

them. If she is passionate or impatient, or fretful, or discontented, woe to the husband who is doomed to her society, if she does not correct these defects. But a sensible woman will subject the irregularities of her temper to the strong restraints of reason and religion—and her husband will admire her constant submission to the severe obligation of selfcontrol.

PICKLE TO DISSOLVE ICE.

A writer in a morning paper says, "It is important that people should know at this particular season, that fine salt or pickle over the ice on stone steps, &c., will soon dissolve it so that it may be swept off with a common brush; and if pumps at sea or on land become choked with ice, half a bucket will immediately free them." It should be a saturated pickle, and used boiling hot.

CRESCENTS.

The Crescent was the symbol of the city of Byzantium, now Constantinople, which the Turks have adopted. This device of the Ottoman Empire is of great antiquity, as appears from several medals, and took its rise from an event related by Stephens the Geographer, a native of Byzantium. He tells us that Philip, the father of Alexander the Great, meeting with mighty difficulties in carrying on the siege of that city, set the workmen in a very dark night to undermine the walls, that his troops might enter the place without being perceived; but luckily for the besieged, the moon appearing, discovered the design, which accordingly miscarried. "In acknowledgement of this deliverance," says he, "the Byzantines erected a statue to Diana, and thus the crescent became their symbol."

A noted physician in Maine was asked by one of his pupils, what was the meaning of *Medical Jurisprudence*. The doctor very gravely replied,— "It means the *order of medicine*."

BOSTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1827.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

THE SMALLPOX, VARIOLOID DISEASE, AND
COWPOCK.

Hospital Island, Feb. 28, 1827.

MR. EDITOR,—Agreeably to your request, I transmit a general history of all the cases of smallpox which have come under our observation, in this hospital, the present season.

In the month of October last, the ship Thomas Wilson, Capt. Leach, from a port in South America, arrived at quarantine. The crew had been severely afflicted with smallpox,—and two seamen had died of the confluent disease only a few days before the ship came into port. Six of the sailors were convalescing, though they exhibited the strongest evidence of their previous sufferings. The remainder of the crew, six or seven in number, had been vaccinated several years before, though they severally assured me that they had been very unwell,—and moreover, believed they endured as severe a headache as those who had the smallpox. From Capt. Leach's account of his own feelings, together with an eruption, which left several pits on his forehead, there is reason to believe he had the varioloid disease, as well as some of the men who officiated as nurses.

About the first of November, a case of smallpox occurred in Brighton, in the person of a young man from New York. Fears were entertained that his nurse would take the disorder, and hence, by permission of the Health Department of Boston, she was conveyed to this island. She remained three weeks, in which time the vaccine process was completed, and she was discharged, without having had any particular symptoms of the former disease.

On the 22d of December, the Board of Health of Charlestown applied to the Mayor of Boston for permission to convey two mariners

from the Navy Yard, who arrived one week before from New York, and who had indisputably the smallpox. They were Morris Haskins and Jacob Hall, who perfectly recovered. Samuel Burroughs, a marine also, was next brought to the hospital from Charlestown. The utmost precaution was taken to cut off all intercourse with the inmates of the yard, and every article of bedding, &c. was carried down the harbor for purification. Haskins had the confluent disease, which has left his face with seams and pits, which disfigure him exceedingly. Indeed, there is not a hair, eyebrow or eyelash remaining. For three weeks, purulent matter was discharged from the corners of the eyes, and from his ears and nose. Blindness continued all of two weeks, accompanied by a muttering delirium: finally, the skin came from his body in patches, like the bark from a tree. Such was the fetor arising from his body, at times, that the attendants could scarcely endure it.

Richard Stewart was the next patient, taken from a boarding house in Sister Street. He arrived one week before from New York, in a packet. In five weeks he was discharged.

Thomas Taylor, a companion of Stewart's in the packet, was brought to the hospital two or three days after, from his lodgings in Ann Street. At first, his symptoms were unfavorable. Accompanying a severe headache, pain in the loins, &c. the throat was so much swollen that he swallowed with difficulty. In this case, the eruption was confluent, and on the fourth day he was almost a shapeless mass. The saliva was constantly flowing from the mouth, the lips were frightfully swollen, and the peculiar steam-like exhalations from the bed were disagreeable beyond description. In this deplorable condition he died.

Joseph Harris, a worthy young gentleman, recently returned from

New York, was the next patient in order, and the fourth brought by the Charlestown Board of Health. His case was truly severe, and his recovery for a considerable time doubtful. This case was also confluent, and consequently has very much disfigured a fair countenance, notwithstanding all the ordinary precautions to the contrary. Mr. Harris was never sensible of any pain whatever, though the fever and delirium continued ten days. He has returned, well, to his friends.

James M. Needham followed. He arrived in a schooner from Fayal. This was a well marked case of distinct smallpox. In four weeks he was discharged.

Ebenezer Babb, taken from the same vessel, who had never been vaccinated, exhibited violent symptoms of smallpox on the fifth day, though immediately vaccinated after the vessel anchored. At the same time the eruption appeared, four cowpock pustules were distinctly observed on the arm. He was vaccinated in both arms, but those on the left, only, succeeded. Though the violence of the smallpox was probably mitigated, he was brought very low. Another sailor, equally exposed to the contagion, who messed with Babb, and was vaccinated the same day, never had the slightest symptoms of the smallpox. Babb's recovery was uncommonly slow and discouraging.

Smith Conklin, from St. Michael's, was taken to the hospital, from lodgings in Ann Street, five or six days after his arrival. This has proved a severe case of distinct smallpox. We have been obliged to change his linen by cutting his shirts from his body. He is now gradually and favorably recovering.

Beside these, there have been a few cases of varioloid, or modified smallpox, on the island, but it might not be interesting, and I will not, therefore, enter into a detail of all the circumstances of the different patients.

The *varioloid* is an eruptive disease, strongly resembling smallpox. Every case which has come under my observation, has resulted from breathing the air in a room in which the person was confined with the smallpox, and in the incipient stage is characterized by headache, pain in the back and loins,—occasional shivering, succeeded by a burning heat,—a dry tongue, a quick, hard pulse, and soreness in the fauces. These were my own sensations, after having been necessarily exposed to the influence of smallpox contagion about ten days. I was vaccinated in infancy, thirty years ago, but never, by any former exposure, in boarding vessels or prescribing for the sick, felt indisposed. Concluding that my fatigues in the hospital were the occasion of this indisposition, I returned to the city, but found myself in the boat so unwell, with an increasing headache and vertigo, that it seemed impossible to walk from the wharf to the house. Chills and watchfulness had prevented me from sleeping for two or three nights in succession. Soon after I arrived home, the headache somewhat abated. Being persuaded to retire, though I could not sleep till about two o'clock in the morning, the cold chills were less frequent, and an hour's sleep was succeeded by a profuse perspiration. It appeared to me that my face had swollen, but on examination, it was a deception; it was discovered, however, that an eruption had appeared on the breast and lower extremities. The next morning, I returned as speedily as possible to the island, where I remained till the inflammatory stage had subsided. Nausea and vomition are not uncommon, in connection with other symptoms. Mr. Reed, a boatman, in the employment of the city, who had the varioloid disease, vomited very frequently.

In studying the characters of the two diseases, with reference to discriminating them in the earliest

stages, I have observed the following circumstances, namely,—in the natural smallpox, by tracing the body and limbs with the fingers, the pustules, like small shot, deep in the skin, can be distinctly felt: on the contrary, in the varioloid, no such sensation is given; nor is there the peculiar efflorescence of the skin, an invariable precursor of smallpox. Another important criterion is this: one of the first symptoms of smallpox, familiar to medical gentlemen who are conversant with it, is a constant spitting of viscid saliva, like a mercurial salivation, which does not attend the varioloid. Occasionally, the labial and submaxillary glands are a little inflamed, and the tunica conjunctiva is unusually streaked with red vessels,—all of which subside when the eruption is distinguishable on the breast and face. And finally, a convalescence is distinctly marked. In smallpox, the pustules having filled, almost to bursting, assume a yellowish hue, then a dusky red, and at last turn black and fall off entirely, leaving a purple colored pit: whereas, in the varioloid affection, but a very few such pustules are formed at all. In one case, the patient, when well, is covered with pits, scars and seams: while in the other, he recovers, and the body remains studded with a vast number of kernels, superficially lodged in the skin, where they long remain, and are gradually absorbed.

The varioloid eruption is generally confined to the shoulders and lower extremities; occasionally, however, the forehead or one cheek is covered with pustules of different sizes; sometimes coherent, resembling patches of confluent smallpox, on one side of the nose.

J. V. C. SMITH,
Resident Physician of the Port.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

FAMILY MEDICINES.

In Dr. Clarke's valuable treatise on the diseases of Children, we find

the following, which may be useful for mothers to remember—

"Half a drachm of genuine syrup of white poppy, and in some instances a few drops of Dalby's Carminative, have proved fatal in the course of a few hours to very young infants."

To this, Dr. C. has appended the following note:—

"Since this paragraph was written the writer has seen another case in which 40 drops of Dalby's Carminative destroyed an infant."

INSTINCT.

One of the most curious instances of the ingenuity of animals for self-preservation is that related of the dogs and cattle in South America, which bark and low on the side of the rivers to attract the alligators.

When they have brought them to a particular spot, they immediately run to another, and drink rapidly, lest they should be dragged into the stream and devoured by these rapacious monsters.

Slander is the revenge of a coward, and dissimulation his defence.

Adventurer.

DICTIONARY.

Anthelmintics, medicines which destroy worms.

Catharsis, purging.

Chorea, St. Vitus's dance.

Hernia, a bust, or rupture.

Hydragogues, medicines which possess the property of increasing the secretions or excretions of the body, so as to cause the removal of water from any of its cavities, such as cathartics, &c.

Oleosaccharum, an essential oil ground up with sugar.

Sphacelus, a mortification of any part.

Strabismus, squinting.

Tunica conjunctiva, the thin transparent membrane which lines the internal surface of the eyelid, and is reflected over the interior portion of the eye.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

DR. HULL'S TRUSS.

THE very great superiority of this instrument over every other heretofore invented, as to convenience, ease, and comfort to the wearer, and its curative power, is shown by the testimony of respectable physicians, and the formal probation of Medical Societies, but more than all by the actual cures it has performed. For a more particular description of this Truss, see the last Edition, 1826, of Thacher's Modern Practice.

Ebenezer Wight, Apothecary, Milk Street, opposite Federal Street, has just received an assortment of Umbilical and Inguinal Trusses.

March 6th.

MEDICAL LECTURES IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

THE Medical Lectures in Harvard University will begin at the Medlical College, Mason Street, Boston, on the THIRD WEDNESDAY IN OCTOBER NEXT ; the time having been altered from the Third Wednesday in November, at which time they formerly commenced.

WALTER CHANNING,
Dean of the Medical Faculty.

Summer Course of Midwifery Lectures.

Dr. Channing's Summer Course of Lectures in Midwifery will begin on the first Wednesday in June next. For Terms, apply to Dr. C. at his house in Common Street. tf

DR. PARSONS, SURGEON DENTIST.
NO. 17, WINTER STREET,

DEVOVES himself to OPERATIONS ON THE TEETH, and to the treatment of such diseases as usually fall to the department of the Dentist. Dr. P. has for many years given his particular attention to the construction of Artificial Teeth, either in entire sets, or in parts of sets ; and is enabled to secure them in such a manner that they will be firm, durable, and useful.

BREWER & BROTHERS.

THE Copartnership heretofore existing under the firm of BARTLETT & BREWER, Druggists, was dissolved on the 31st ult.

SAMUEL N. BREWER, the junior partner, having succeeded to the business, has associated himself with his brothers, NATHANIEL BREWER, M.D.—and WILLIAM A. BREWER, who has been six years in the store. They will continue the business of Druggists and Apothecaries, at the old stand, Sign of the Good Samaritan, No. 92, Wahington Street, under the firm of SAMUEL N. BREWER & BROTHERS, and promising every possible attention to their business, respectfully solicit patronage.

SAMUEL N. BREWER,
NATHANIEL BREWER,
WILLIAM A. BREWER.

Boston, January 1, 1827.

WEBSTER'S CHEMISTRY.

RI查RDSON & LORd, No. 133, Washington street, have lately published a Manual of CHEMISTRY, by J. W. WEBSTER, M. D., Adjunct Irving Professor of Chemistry in Harvard University.

This work has been adopted as a textbook in the University at Cambridge : at the United States Military Academy, West Point ; at Amherst, Burlington, Williams' and Washington Colleges ; Castleton Medical School, and at several other Colleges and Medical Schools in the United States.

Orders for the work received by the publishers.

ORFILA'S PRACTICAL TREATISE, ON Poisons, Asphyxies, Burns, and Apparent Death—adapted to general use—translated by J. G. STEVENSON, M. D.—with a Medicolegal, Chemical, and Anatomical Appendix, for the use of Physicians—1 vol. duodecimo.

Extract from a Report of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris.

"This work of M. ORFILA must become universally esteemed, as it is freed from scientific terms, and is reduced to precepts the most simple, yet sufficient to effect the object proposed.

"It is to be wished that Government would take the necessary measures to distribute it among all classes of society ; and especially that it may be in the hands of Medical Practitioners, the Clergy, and Municipal Officers, to whom a knowledge of its subjects is indispensable."

Published and for sale by HILLIARD, GRAY & CO. Washington Street.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1827.

NO. 44.

Remarks on Cutaneous Diseases. By J. H. WILKINSON. London, 1822.

In the different publications on cutaneous diseases, it appears to me, that the secretions on the surface of the true skin, and its power, when altered from its natural state, of producing all the different eruptions, has never been properly or sufficiently considered; nor yet how dependent their varieties are, on the different states or condition of the skin, on which such disordered secretion acts.

The prevailing opinion, that different eruptions are produced by different diseased secretions, appears to me to be incorrect, since, I believe, that the diseased secretion is always essentially the same; and that the varieties of the eruptions are produced solely by the conformation and constitution of the subject.

We continually observe that the same causes produce very different effects in different individuals: that the same medicine vomits one person, and purges another, and excites a diaphoresis in a third; that

the cold damp air, acting on two people at the same moment, in the same situation, produces in one a pleurisy, in the other a typhous fever.

These circumstances are familiar to all of us; and we easily explain them, by considering the different habits, and the different states of system, of those who are, at the same moments, exposed to the same causes. Yet, though equally applicable, we seem to have neglected these observations, when considering the morbid phenomena of the skin; for the same cause, exciting the same defective or deranged cuticular secretion, may produce the different varieties of lepra in one person, of psoriasis in another, and of pityriasis in a third.

It is not necessary, at present, to state the general cause of such diseased secretion; but, whatever it may be, for instance, a longcontinued interruption, or irregular action of the digestive powers, I have no doubt that such cause will produce on the skins of different persons the different diseases mentioned. But such

cause may likewise produce the varieties of impetigo, and some, if not all the varieties of herpes: the three orders of squamæ, pustulæ, and vesiculæ, may therefore be produced by the same cause, and, in most instances, may be cured by the same remedies.

If this be admitted, it will be also granted, that the same causes may produce contagious eruptions, since some of the order of pustulæ are very contagious. In what, then, does the contagion of such eruptions consist? Is there a peculiar poisonous fluid, which, on its application to different skins, occasions on each the same excitement, and the same eruption.

This is well known not to be always necessarily the case: even the itch, which is, generally, very quickly communicated, will not affect some skins, though exposed to it for months;* and it will exhibit itself on some as a vesicular, on others as a pustular disease.

The varieties of porrigo, two or three of which are exceedingly contagious, will not affect some children, though they wear the hats and caps of the diseased; and no two eruptions

can be more unlike, than the varieties of tinea capitis.

A young woman has lately been placed under my care, who, having been engaged, for some weeks, in washing the heads of children affected with tinea, has experienced a complete attack of psoriasis unguium; and during last year, I met with another servant, who, from the same cause, was affected with psoriasis palmaris.

We frequently see that little children, having the porrigo furfuracea, or the porrigo granulata, two varieties, as different as possible in appearance, will, with their fingers, communicate to the arms or necks of their nurses or mothers, the circinatus, or common ringworm, which seems to have a different character, as well as appearance; and may be cured by ink, an infusion of galls, or any astringent fluid.

Now, the miasma of the smallpox, and chickenpox, or of any other contagious eruption attended with fever, though it will not affect *all* the bodies to which it is applied, or which are exposed to it; yet, when the affection does take place, it never fails to produce an eruption of nearly the same appearance; for the most confluent smallpox exhibits, at its commencement, the same character of pustule as

* One of the rankest eruptions of this kind, that I ever beheld, was on a female servant, who had slept in a small bed, with another girl, for six weeks, without communicating the disease to her.

the distinct or more mild eruption.

But, the varieties of the eruptions before mentioned, though all proceeding from the same fluid or secretion, have no similarity to each other in appearance.

I conclude, then, that a certain vitiated secretion takes place within a part or parts of the skin, and produces an eruption; the lepra, for instance, which is more or less severe, as the secretion is more or less vitiated, or the skin more or less irritable.

The same vitiated fluid, secreted on another skin, of different texture, or habit, or of a different degree of heat or dryness, shall produce psoriasis or pityriasis, and sometimes impetiginous and herpetic eruptions.

These different phenomena may be exhibited on the same individual. The skin of the scalp seems to differ in its nature or texture, from the skin of the other parts of the body; and a child, with any variety of tinea capitis, may, by communication with his fingers, produce an eruption on other parts of his body; but, such eruption will seldom bear much resemblance, and frequently none, to the tinea which produced it.

This is illustrated still more effectually, by the different exhibitions of psoriasis on the

different parts even of the same person affected by it. In the psoriasis palmaris, the skin of the palms of the hands, having a firmer texture from pressure, and generally a greater degree of heat, the disease produces a more squamous, and a much more indurated affection.

In the psoriasis unguinum, the fingers being more sensitive, and particularly irritable around the nails; the disease produces a fretful, tetterous affection, with little vesicles, continually filling with, and discharging an ichor, which destroys the cuticle.

The psoriasis diffusa is a mere squamous eruption, receiving no peculiarity from its locality, but frequently bearing a great resemblance to the lepra alphoides.

We cannot doubt that the secretion, in these cases, is the same; and that the difference of the affections produced, depends on the difference in the parts of the skin on which it acts.

In respect to contagious eruptions, without fever, I can find no satisfactory explanation of their production; but I think it is not very improbable, that they differ from others only in the degree of acrimony, or the more irritating nature of the secretion which produces them. Another circumstance is indeed necessary

to render them contagious—a certain state of the skin exposed to their action; for it is well known, that, however contagious an eruption may generally be, we cannot communicate it to some individuals.

On the other hand, some of those eruptions, which are not considered contagious, may become so very acrimonious, that coming in contact with a skin in a certain state of irritation, such skin shall be infected, as in the variety of impetigo, called grocer's itch, and in some other impetiginous eruptions, so very like the common itch, that it is difficult to distinguish them except by the infectious quality of the latter.

When we reflect on the peculiar structure of the skin—of the cuticle, the rete mucosum, and cutis; and consider that an eruptive disease may sometimes affect the first, sometimes the second of these coverings, and sometimes penetrate to the cutis, to the capsule of the hair, and even to the adipose membrane; we may easily conceive what a different appearance, and even character, the disease might assume, according to the part or parts which it occupied.

How easily, then, may we be induced, by the division and subdivision of an eruptive disease, into all its different varieties, to consider that there is something essentially differ-

ent in such varieties; and that they frequently must require very different remedies:—whereas, not only the different varieties of each particular order, but the different orders themselves, may be cured by the same remedies.

I would, on no account, attempt to diminish the value of Dr. Willan's classification, which I think not only beautiful, but even useful, as far as it enables us to convey to each other, with facility, without the labor of description, more correct ideas of the peculiar appearance of each eruption; but, I cannot admit that it has contributed, in the least degree, to the power of subduing them.

As, in the course of these remarks, I shall take the liberty of commenting freely on his work, and shall do so with the freedom of a man who thinks for himself, it may be necessary, perhaps, to say, that no one can more highly estimate the abilities of the late Dr. Willan, with whom I was well acquainted, nor can any one more fully appreciate the worth of the work alluded to; but its greatest beauty, the classification of the eruptions, and the division of each into its different varieties, led him away, and has led away most of his readers, from the sameness of method and remedies, necessary for the cure of such

diseases ; and induced him and them to think, that not only the different orders, but their genera, and even many of their varieties, required different remedies, and different modes of treatment.

Thus, his excellent work is swelled out, and rendered, in many parts, unnecessarily tedious, by an enumeration of a great number of remedies for each eruption, if remedies they may be called, extracted from ancient and modern authors, both those which were successful and unsuccessful, three parts of which, for any particular efficacy, are not worth mentioning.*

Dr. Bateman, likewise, in his Synopsis, though he seems to be fully aware that the same cause may produce the different eruptions, and that "the diseases which commence with one generic character are liable, occasionally, to assume another in the course of their progress, as some papulous eruptions become sca-

ly, and still more frequently pustular ;" yet he is not led by such observations to conclude it possible that the *same remedies* may cure the *different genera*, but, on the contrary, observes that "it is very obvious, as Dr. Willan used to remark, that the adoption of any one mode of practice, or of any single pretended specific under the varying circumstances of porrigo scutulata, must be unavailing, and often extremely injurious."

Accordingly, he gives us a list of *thirtythree remedies*, externally and internally, *for this single variety* ; stating, indeed, that "the milder remedies are to be employed in the more irritative states of the disease ; and the stimulating applications where the discharge is acrimonious," but without specifying any preference to one or more of the thirtythree remedies, but leaving you to make your own experiments, with the flattering prospect, that "such occasionally succeed, and such and such are occasionally useful."

To be concluded next week.

DR. CLUTTERBUCK'S LECTURE ON THE
DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

At the conclusion of the last lecture, I said I would endeavor to explain to you the nature of *intoxication*, as produced by the excessive use of strong drinks. Now as this state is referrible to disordered vascular action in the brain itself, and not to the general circulation, I must again call your attention to the pe-

* But a still greater fault, of which more than one modern medical author has been guilty, is that of making long quotations of the opinions of Greek, Latin, and German authors ; which opinions, however ingenious they may have been in their day, are not now worth the trouble of reading ; and still less so when describing a comparatively trifling complaint, like strophulus and its varieties, for the comprehension and cure of which we surely can need no assistance from Etmuller, Lorry, Myrops, Russel, Aetius, Avicenna, &c. &c. ; quotations from whom, if not intended to exhibit the erudition of the author, must be intended to enlarge the work, and to increase the price of it.

culiarities of the brain in regard to its circulation, without which it will be difficult to understand the different and even opposite conditions produced in the state of the *sensorial functions*, by merely different degrees of the same cause. For, while a small quantity of wine, or other fermented liquor, produces an increased activity in all the functions, but primarily and essentially in those termed *sensorial*, a larger quantity of the same stimulus soon renders the organ altogether incapable of performing its office, inducing, at length, that suspension or annihilation of the cerebral functions that we call *intoxication*, and which in reality is but a variety of apoplexy.

It is easy to conceive a general increase of action to take place in the arterial system of the brain, though it is not easy to say what causes would produce so general an effect, and that equally with regard to every part of the organ. Among the causes of pretty general excitement to the arterial action of the brain, may be mentioned *external heat*, *muscular exertion*, *certain emotions of the mind*, and *wine* in moderate quantities. Now that these do actually increase the arterial action of the brain, is almost a matter of demonstration. The increase of size, and of pulsation, perceived in all the external arteries of the head, as well as those of the neck,—and the flushing of the face and eyes,—are sufficient proofs of this, as far, at least, as regards the external carotid and its ramifications; while the increased heat of the whole head, the throbbing headache that attends or follows, and which is often referred by the patient to the centre of the brain; these, together with the excited state of functions, leave me no room to doubt that the *internal*, no less than the *external* vessels, are in a state of inordinate action. Still, as there is some difference of effect observable in the state of the functions, in these different cases, it is

probable that the excitement is not absolutely *equal* throughout the whole arterial system of the brain; but rather, that the vessels of different parts of this organ are unequally affected, and their functions also, as a natural consequence of this inequality.

All these causes, then, *moderately* applied, produce an increase of action in the arteries of the brain, though still not with perfect equality. This increased arterial action will produce a more rapid flow of blood through the organ; and this, as in other cases, will be accompanied with a more energetic performance of functions; not merely those that are proper to the brain, but, *secondarily*, those of the general system likewise. Thus, from a moderate quantity of wine, sensation is observed to be quickened;—there is an evident increase of the voluntary power;—and the mind is excited in an equal degree. These may be termed the *primary effects*, as regards the proper *sensorial functions*. But excitement soon follows in the action of the heart and whole vascular system, and soon becomes universal. But if the wine be taken in excess, the actions of the vessels will not only be increased, but disordered at the same time; and disturbance of functions will be the necessary consequence, or that delirious state we term *intoxication*, in which neither mind nor body is capable of performing its office in a proper manner. And if the quantity should be still further increased, *stupor* follows, in which the sensorial functions are suspended altogether; sensation, voluntary motion, and the powers of the mind being all for a time obliterated. The person is then said to be “dead drunk.”

Now to understand this variety of effect, as produced from the same cause, you must call to mind what occurs when arteries are excited by any stimulus. Their muscular activity being increased, the blood is

carried forwards with increased force and rapidity, and the functions are performed in consequence with more energy. This increase of action is soon followed by enlargement of the arteries, which thus will occupy, in consequence, greater space within the skull. But this additional space can only be obtained by compression of the veins, and consequent squeezing of the blood out of them; for the bloodvessels are the only compressible parts here; and, of these, the veins, being the weakest, yield most readily to pressure. The necessary effect of this is, impeded if not interrupted circulation, with a proportionate interruption and disturbance of the different functions, up to the degree of absolute stupor or apoplexy; which, however, is for the most part temporary, lasting for a few hours only.

You perceive, then, that the same exciting cause is capable of either increasing the activity of an organ, situated as the brain is, in an unyielding case of bone, or, on the other hand, of interrupting its functions altogether, according to the change induced in the dimensions of the arteries, and the consequent compression of the veins. These effects are in a great measure peculiar to the brain; other organs being capable of expansion altogether, so as to allow of both arteries and veins being distended at the same time; by which the circulation is still carried on, and the functions continued, though, it may be, in a disordered manner.

The termination of a fit of intoxication is easily understood on the principles here laid down. The excited state of the arteries being a forced one, is necessarily temporary in its duration. After a time, commonly a few hours, the arterial action languishes, the arteries slowly resume their natural size, and room is thereby given for the veins to expand, and receive the arterial blood; the circulation is restored, and the

functions are renewed. One may understand, also, what art is capable of doing, towards accelerating recovery in these cases. So long as the increase of action in the arteries of the brain continues, means may be employed that are calculated to diminish increased action; such as bloodletting, local or general, together with counterirritation, by purging or other means. The application of cold to the head, is another probable means of accomplishing the purpose; this operates both by lessening the *propulsive* action of the arteries, and also by increasing their *tonic* contraction; the effect being communicated by sympathy, from the external to the internal vessels of the head. It is only in extreme cases, however, that anything of this kind appears to be necessary; for experience shows that ordinary cases of intoxication do well if left to themselves, so as not to require, in general, the use of any remedies.

Other narcotic substances, such as opium, may, without difficulty, be supposed to act in a similar way with strong drinks, in impeding the functions of the brain; namely, by increasing its vascular action, with the subsequent changes I have just pointed out. It can hardly be doubted, I think, that the cause is equal to the effect: but when we attribute the effect of opium, as is often done, to its "narcotic principle destroying the nervous energy," we are using language to which no distinct meaning is attached; it is only asserting a fact, not explaining it.

Now if opium produces its narcotic effect in the manner I have supposed, that is, through the medium of increased vascular action in the brain,—and that it does so is probable, from the fact that *opium*, as well as strong drinks, has a tendency to induce and to aggravate inflammation in the brain,—it is not easy to understand how subjecting persons, when under the influence of opium, to all sorts of irritation, me-

dical and mechanical, as commonly recommended, should be useful. On the contrary, such a practice appears to me more likely to prove hurtful than beneficial; by exciting and keeping up the vascular action of the brain, instead of allowing it to subside, as it soon will do spontaneously. No appeal, in this case, can be satisfactorily made to experience; both from the want of sufficient opportunities, and from the infinite diversity of cases; no two being exactly parallel, so as to allow of a conclusion being drawn from one to another. At all events, there seems to be an inconsistency in doing that in cases of poisoning from opium, which no one thinks of doing in cases of excessive intoxication. For where the phenomena are so similar, it is reasonable to suppose that the state of organs is not very unlike in the two cases; and if so, the same mode of procedure would appear to be proper.

The explanation I have now given of intoxication, and which perhaps applies to narcotics in general, will enable you to understand the state of stupor, or obliteration of functions, that occurs in apoplexy, as proceeding from various causes; and also in the last stage of inflammation of the brain, and in certain forms and stages of fever; subjects, to which I shall soon direct your attention in a more particular way.

But suppose the arteries of a part only of the brain, to be in the state of preternatural excitement and distension I have mentioned, and which, no doubt, may take place from causes less general in their action than strong drinks: the parts so excited will be rendered more active in the performance of their functions; but a necessary consequence of this will be, that the turgid state of vessels in the excited part, will make pressure on the surrounding parts of the brain, so as to impede the circulation in them, and thereby impair their energy. This is quite consonant with

experience, and serves to explain, on mechanical principles, the well-known physiological fact, that the frequent exercise and consequent developement of one part of the brain, while they tend to the perfection of an individual faculty, tend, at the same time, to impair others. And hence it is, that one of the *sensorial* powers is only to be improved, or carried to a high pitch of excellence, at the expense of the rest.

Such are the effects likely to result from an excited state of arterial action, whether general or partial, in the brain: and they will enable us to understand the various effects of inflammation on this organ.

The diseases to which the brain is liable, though infinitely various in regard to their symptoms or external characters, are, in their nature, sufficiently simple. According to systematic writers on nosology, there are a hundred or more different diseases of the brain, to each of which a specific denomination has been given; implying, of course, a difference in nature. By far the greater part of these, however, are merely symptoms; the number and variety of which are easily accounted for, when we advert to the varied structure of the brain, and the diversity of its functions, together with the great and paramount influence it exerts over the whole body.

The brain not being a muscular structure, is of course not liable to the diseases of muscular parts. It is to disordered *vascular* action, and the consequences of this, that all the diseases of the brain are attributable.

The effects of a simple increase of vascular action in the brain, have been already pointed out, when speaking of intoxication. Whether any form of disease in the brain is to be ascribed to *diminished vascular action* in this part, is, I believe, unknown. I am not acquainted with any circumstances that decidedly support such an opinion; while most brain affections may be clearly trac-

ed to inflammation, as their primary cause, and of which they are merely consequences or effects.

GENERAL MEETING OF GERMAN PHYSICIANS AND NATURALISTS AT DRESDEN.

About five years ago, it was arranged by the principal cultivators of the various branches of natural science in Germany, to establish a society, and to have an annual meeting for the purpose of communicating to each other whatever discoveries might have been made by any members of the union in their particular province. This was one object; but another was, that of entertaining a proper spirit of emulation and friendship among men who, however separated by extent of territory, or debarred from opportunities of making known their opinions by absurd legislative restrictions, might once in the year, at least, revel in that freedom of opinion which could only be gratified at the personal interviews of friends. The first meeting of this kind was held at Leipsic in 1822, when the venerable Blumenbach gratified the assembly by his presence. The next year the *Naturforschende Freunde* congregated at Halle, at which meeting Dobæreiner, of Jena, announced his valuable investigations respecting platinum. The third meeting was held in the vineclad town of Wursberg; and the fourth, at Frankfort on the Maine, where the collections of the Linkenberg Institute afforded a rich treat to the very numerous assembly. Soemmering, Siebold, Tiedemann, and many other distinguished anatomists were present. The last meeting was held at Dresden, at which Professor Carus, already favorably known throughout Europe as a zootomist, presided. For the following account of the Dresden meeting we are indebted to some recent numbers of the *Allgemeine Zeitung*; but our space does not allow us to give more than a brief abstract of what was done.

Carus delivered a description of his interesting discovery respecting the circulation of the blood in insects. Dr. Oken, the wellknown conductor of the *Isis*, read an essay distinguished for perspicuity of style and illustration, on the original form and developement of the fetus, which was very interesting, but too long to admit of any further notice than a mere mention. Professor Evertscher, of Frankfort, delivered a discourse on the newly discovered race of African dogs, and on the Giraffes, and criticised the more recent prelections of Lichtensten, professor of zoology at Berlin, on the same animals. Count Sternberg, who is a most zealous promoter of mineralogy, delivered a discourse on petrified vegetables, particularly on ferns and palms. Cotta read a paper on the volcanic phenomena of the Flammerbuhl; and Treviranus, of Breslau, on several interesting phenomena, illustrating the physiology of vegetables.

The meeting was held in the large hall of the palace, as no other room in the town was sufficiently large for the number assembled. The king of Saxony ordered all his museums and galleries, which are very rich in the works of art, to be thrown open during the week, and the assemblage broke up with the greatest expressions of satisfaction and delight.

HEARING AND SPEECH RESTORED.

We take the following particulars from the report made by the Institute respecting this curious case. Honore Trezel, nine years of age when operated on, was born at Paris, and was classed among those of the deaf and dumb, who have not the slightest sense of audition, even when close to the most violent explosions. His forehead was large, and his head well formed, but there was little expression in his countenance.—He walked unsteadily, and he made known his more immediate wants

by certain signs. These circumstances gave reason to believe that the imperfection was not accompanied by idiotism, as is too often the case, and consequently, that an operation might not be useless. The operation was neither new nor difficult. It consisted in the introduction of injections into the eustachian canal, by means of a small flexible tube—which injections were not followed, as is sometimes the case, by severe pains and fainting, nor by suppurations in the interior of the ear, which destroys the good effects of the operation. The first few days after the restoration of hearing, were, for young Honore, a period of rapture—"un tempts de ravissement." Every kind of noise, happy fellow, was to him like the music of the spheres! A musical snuff box set him in ecstacy whenever it came within the reach of his auditory nerves, but he was sometime in discovering that speech was a medium of communication between individuals. Even when he found that this was the case, he attached more importance to the movements of the lips than to the intonations of the voice and pronunciation of words. Hence he thought infants when crying, were talking away at a most furious rate. He soon corrected this error, however, but unfortunately he heard a parrot chattering some phrases, and immediately generalizing on this datum, as older folks sometimes do in more important matters, he concluded that all animals had the faculty of speech, and addressed himself to them accordingly. He worked hard to make a dog pronounce the words *papa* and *pain*, —the only words he had then learnt himself; but, as may be supposed, without success.

The restoration of audition produced a great change in the physical constitution of the boy. His gait became steady—his countenance brightened up and became more intellectual. But the power of speak-

ing was very slow in being acquired, and it was long before he could recognize the direction of sounds which struck his ear. At length he was brought to pronounce some words of more than one syllable—and now his vanity knew no bounds. He scorned the society of the deaf and dumb, among whom he had been placed, and considered himself quite on a level with other boys of his own age in general. So early does vanity take possession of the human heart,—and so easily is it fanned into open flame!

Trezel made but a slow progress; yet in the course of a year, from being completely deaf, he can now distinguish all kinds of sounds—evades carriages and horses—opens the door when he hears it rapped on—can appreciate music, and takes great pleasure in it—endeavors to imitate the modulations of voice which he hears, though with little success—can repeat all the words of the French language which are spoken before him,—repeats by heart several phrases, &c.—In short, there is reason to hope that this youth will be placed on a level with those of his age, and restored to that intercourse with society, from which he was cut off by the privation of an important sense.

The operation consisted in clearing the eustachian tube, and admitting air into the ear.

A CASE OF TETANUS CURED BY THE SPIRIT OF TURPENTINE.
BY B. HUTCHINSON, ESQ.

JOHN BEEDHAM, a prisoner in the Nottinghamshire House of Correction at Southwell, about thirty years of age, and constitutionally of a delicate and irritable fibre, has been for the last twelve years subject to attacks of epilepsy,—the exciting cause of which he attributed to long exposure to the inhalation of oxygenated muriatic gas, in his employment at some extensive bleachworks. On his commitment to the House of

Correction, I immediately perceived that the energies of the brain, and his intellectual powers had, from some cause, been materially enfeebled, and many very severe paroxysms of epilepsy soon pointed out to me the cause. Convulsions frequently attacked his whole frame; a frothy moisture issued from his mouth: he would then remain in a state of the most perfect insensibility, and apparently in a profound sleep. After some duration of this torpor, he would gradually be restored to the power of voluntary motion and to his senses; his memory retaining no traces whatever of his immediately preceding state of epileptic paroxysms. Under the impression that congestion of blood in the vessels of the brain might exert its baneful influence in the production of these symptoms, I began my remedial treatment by local and general bleeding, and by purging with calomel and jalap. I then commenced my curative plan by exhibiting antispasmodics and some preparations of the metallic tonics; under which treatment the paroxysms of my suffering patient were less frequent and much less severe.

On making my daily visits to the prison in the beginning of December, I was informed by one of the turnkeys that Beedham was unable to open his jaws, and that they had been immovably closed since my visit on the preceding day. On entering Beedham's ward I found the turnkey's account correct, with the addition of a sense of stiffness and pain in the back part of the neck, a considerable spasmodyc rigidity of the whole of the muscles of the neck and back, accompanied with pain and uneasiness at the lower part of the tongue, and with some interruption to the facility of swallowing his saliva. He was affected with considerable pain at the lower extremity of the sternum, extending into the back, materially deranging the functions of respiration, from the spas-

modic contractions of the diaphragm, and of the muscles subservient to this important office; symptoms strongly threatening that peculiar aspect of the disease termed Prosthotonus. His pulse was 120; his countenance denoting the greatest distress and anxiety; and my prognosis was most inauspicious.

I immediately took from his arm about thirty ounces of blood; and, one of the molares of the lower jaw being fortunately wanting, I introduced into his mouth three pills, containing fifteen grains of cal. mel and two grains of opium. A brisk purging enema, containing one ounce of the oil of turpentine, was administered; and a large blister was applied between his shoulders. On visiting my patient after the lapse of eight hours, the symptoms, instead of showing the least mitigation, were aggravated by an evident increase of muscular rigidity, spasm, and pain. The flexors of the head and trunk became so strongly affected as to balance the extensors, and to keep the head and trunk straight and rigidly extended, incapable of being moved in any way. The enema had produced no effect on the bowels. I immediately resolved on giving the spirit of turpentine a fair trial in this very distressing situation, and directed half an ounce to be given every two hours in gruel.

On the following morning I paid an early visit to my patient, who received me with a cheerful countenance, opening and extending his mouth to show me that he had completely regained the proper command over these muscles. On inquiry I found that he had taken two ounces of the turpentine; and that, after the second half ounce had been taken, the spasms began to relax; his pains, consequently, began to abate, and his bowels to be freely evacuated; and since that period there has not been the least disposition to any return of tetanus. He has suffered several paroxysms of

epilepsy, of a much milder character.

Southwell, December, 1822.

OSSIFICATION OF THE SPLEEN.

The following case tends to confirm the proofs which already exist, that, whatever office the spleen may perform in the animal economy, it is not one of primary importance to life, or even to health. In opening the body of a person who was drowned, the spleen was found converted into a hard bony substance. The periosteum, peritoneum, being taken off, this bone was found to be white and smooth; the vasa brevia were not ossified; internally, it was cellular and spongy, and contained in the middle a fleshy mass, the remains of the viscera. The most remarkable circumstance is, that the individual had always enjoyed the best state of health.—RUST's *Magazin fur die Gesamte Heilkunde.*

VIRTUE OF THE BLACK PEPPER AS A FEBRIFUGE.

Dr. LOUIS FRANK having invited the profession to try the effect of the extract of black pepper in intermittent fever, prepared by digesting, in a glass vessel, one ounce of the pepper in twelve ounces of distilled water, for thirtysix hours, in a water bath, and evaporating the liquor to the consistence of an extract. This remedy was tried on nine individuals, affected with intermittent fever of different types, in doses of four, eight, ten, or twelve grains, dissolved in water, in some cases, given in the form of pills in others, by Dr. CLOCK, of Trent; and the effects surpassed his warmest expectations.

From these experiments, the Doctor concludes that the extract of pepper is not only one of the best succedaneums for the bark, but that it actually is very preferable to it, on several accounts: 1st. It never produces disturbance of the stomach or bowels. 2d. Because it never

failed in producing its curative effect. 3d. Those who were cured did not, in any one instance, experience a relapse. 4th. It promotes a regular alvine discharge, as well as the excretions of urine and sweat. 5th. None of those who were cured experienced that sensation of languor so common to a state of convalescence.—*Giornale de Chirurgia Pratica*, March.

INTEMPERANCE—DEATH.

At a meeting of the Medical Association of New Haven, Con. Feb. 12, 1827, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

“Resolved, That, as physicians and guardians of the public health, we view with deep concern the increasing evils resulting from the abuse of spirituous liquors.

“Resolved, That however humiliating the following statement may be to the age and country in which we live, yet with a view to its having a beneficial tendency, we feel it our duty to publish it: and that the same be accordingly inserted in the newspapers printed in this city.

“The fact is too well established to require discussion, that such diseases, as are of themselves not usually fatal, frequently become so in persons of intemperate habits; and that in all acute diseases, the chance for recovery is greatly lessened by this circumstance.

“On referring to the list of deaths in this town during the year 1826, we find that of the *ninety-four* persons over twenty years of age, *more than one third* were in our opinion, caused or hastened directly or indirectly, by intemperance, and on referring still further back, we find a similar proportion imputable to the same cause for the two years preceding.”

The opinion of these physicians is that intemperance does not prevail to a greater extent in New Haven than in other cities and towns. We are inclined to believe that it is less

prevalent there than in Washington, where a considerable share of the population consists of vagabond foreigners, of free Africans, and of ignorant, vicious Americans. Our vision is daily and almost hourly shocked by instances of disgusting intoxication. Scarcely an hour passes in which some customer of the detestable dram dealer does not stagger by our window in his zig zag wanderings. And yet no effort is made among us to check this evil. A few months since our City was thrown into commotion by the wanton murder of a fellow citizen. But we sit unmoved at the spectacle of hundreds on all sides who are guilty of murder, by destroying themselves and others in a manner ten times more deliberate and appalling. The number of tippling shops is immense and is rapidly increasing. Their influence on the lower classes is awfully detrimental, and unless something be done as well as said to repress it, multitudes will be ruined beyond the possibility of reclamation. Here is work for the philanthropists, and the call for its vigorous and immediate exercise is loud and urgent.—Cannot the physicians of Washington make inquest of the extent of the evil, and propose some thorough remedy?—*Columbian Star.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

AROMATIC VINEGAR.

Macerate during four days two ounces of rosemary and two ounces of sage, with one ounce of lavender and one drachm of cloves, in four pounds, all apothecaries' weight, of wine vinegar, then filter the expressed liquor through paper. It is considered an antiseptic, and an improvement of what is called *Thieves' Vinegar*.

This preparation may have its use; but in contagion I would advise your readers not to rely on this, nor on camphor, &c. but have recourse to fumigations with chlorine gas. Per-

fumes serve only to disguise the mischief, ventilations to diffuse it in the atmosphere, fumigations to destroy it completely.

ORIGIN OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY IN LONDON.

The Lord Chancellor Bacon recommended that scientific persons in different countries should associate, and communicate with each other on the results of their various researches, for "the advancement of learning." On this suggestion the Royal Society was founded A. D. 1662, and was soon succeeded by the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris.

GRACES OF STYLE.

He that will write with precision, energy, and vigor, may live only with men; but he who wishes for suppleness in his style, for amenity, and for that something which charms and enchant, will, I believe, do very right to live with women. When I read that Pericles sacrificed every morning to the graces, what I understand by it is, that every day Pericles breakfasted with Aspasia.—*Marmontel.*

THE HEAD AND HEART.

The language of the head is communicated to the mind by means of those organs which nature has furnished—the tongue and the lips. The ideas fall in audible sounds on the ear, and are presented to the judgment, to be disposed of as circumstances may require. But the heart does not trust these deceptive organs to convey its emotions; it speaks in language through the soul, silent and brief, but not to be misunderstood. No art or dissimulation of the head can give the appearance of deception to its motives. A single glance of the eye, or movement of a muscle, is sufficient to disclose and confirm the tendency of the affections.

A man requireth wisdom to discover whether he be a fool or none; and if he be certified that he is not

a fool, then, by this token, is he wise. Wisdom and folly are the antipodes to each other; and a man who goes deep into the one, may find that he approacheth the other.

WRITTEN AT THE END OF HIS BIBLE BY
SIR WILLIAM JONES.

The scriptures contain, independently of a Divine origin, more true sublimity, more exquisite beauty, purer morality, more important history, and finer strains both of poetry and eloquence, than could be collected within the same compass from all other books that were ever composed in any age or in any idiom. The two parts of which the scriptures consist are connected by a chain of compositions which bear no resemblance in form of style to any that can be produced from the stores of Grecian, Indian, Persian, or even Arabian learning. The antiquity of these compositions no man doubts; and the unrestrained application of them to events long subsequent to their publication, is a solid ground of belief, that they were genuine predictions, and consequently inspired.

OUR FRIEND CHEVERUS.

By an order of the French King, *M. Le Comte Cheverus*, archbishop of Bordeaux, is raised to the dignity of a Peer of France.

Dr. Spurzheim had arrived in London in December last, and was about to begin a course of lectures on Phrenology in Cambridge. After which the doctor was to give a similar course in Bath and Bristol. He was then to lecture in London, where he intends to take up his residence and practise as a physician.

In the reign of James I., an act was passed to prevent the further growth of *popery*, which by a mistake of the printer, ran thus:—"An act to prevent the further growth of poetry."

BOSTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1827.

THE SMALLPOX.

We are informed that a man has lately fallen sick of this disease at Bellows Falls, N. H. from assorting some imported rags, for a paper mill. A physician writes from New York,

"I have had some *true* cases of smallpox, one as well marked as possible and the next door to me. None of the family had been previously vaccinated, or passed through the smallpox. I immediately vaccinated them all. One of the family who had slept with the smallpox patient, took this disease, and went through its progress, though two days behind-hand, to the eighth day, when fever occurred with the appearance of four or five pustules; in two days more the patient was quite well. One did not take the cowpock, was revaccinated, went on irregularly, fever occurred, with a free eruption and a mild disorder; nothing else has occurred."

A lad from New York, with the varioloid eruption on him, which is capable of communicating the smallpox to an unvaccinated subject, was walking about our streets, some few weeks since, and went into various houses, shops, &c. before his eruption was duly noticed, and he was removed to Hospital Island. Some years ago, an aged woman in this vicinity, who had not been out of her house for several months, fell sick of smallpox; the cause was never ascertained. Several members of her family, or visitors, took the disease of her before her disorder was known to be smallpox. Vaccination only stopped the further progress of this appearance of smallpox. We mention these facts merely to

support the following conclusion,—that there cannot, even at this day, be any security against smallpox, except from vaccination.

COUGHS.

The following medicine for a cough has performed such extraordinary cures, in private practice, that the possessor is induced to publish it for the benefit of society:—Take six ounces of Italian liquorice, that stamped Solizzi is by far the best, cut into small pieces, and put into an earthen jar, with a quarter of a pint of the best white wine vinegar, simmer together till the liquorice is dissolved, then add two ounces of oil of almonds, and half an ounce of tincture of opium, stir the whole well together, and it is fit for use. Take two teaspoonfuls when going to bed, and the same quantity whenever the cough is troublesome in the daytime.—*Eng. pap.*

Of the endless multitude of recipes and remedies, which through the medium of the newspapers are constantly soliciting the public attention and confidence, this may be classed among the more harmless,—and yet this may be the occasion of much injury. It invites a trial, and holds out a promise of relief on the idea that all coughs are alike, and that what will help one will help all. This opinion is so obviously false and unfounded, that whoever trusts to a nostrum of this kind, is always in danger of losing time, and to have his complaint aggravated by an unsuitable or mischievous resource. Take, for instance, twenty cases of cough as they may occur; there is no single prescription that will be best adapted to more than two of these cases: if the same reputed remedy, therefore, is directed in each case, it will

prove useless or hurtful in eighteen of the twenty instances. If from the want of discrimination and adaptation, these popular medicines, whose composition is known, are thus liable to do harm, how much more pernicious must the general use of patent medicines prove, whose composition and properties are unknown excepting from the testimony of the interested, credulous, ignorant and deceived? Medicine is not now a difficult art because many facts and principles in the treatment of diseases are not well established; but from the difficulty of modifying and suiting to particular diseases, and the various and varying stages of the same disease, the remedies and information which we already possess.

DICTIONARY.

In the first article of this paper various terms occur which denote particular eruptive diseases of the skin; several of these cannot be satisfactorily or usefully explained without the aid of plates, or engravings. A definition of some others follows.

Extensors, muscles which extend any part.

Flexors, are the muscles which bend a limb, &c.

Herpetic, from herpes, which is tetter.

Lepra, the leprosy.

Pustulæ, pustules. A pustule is an elevation of the cuticle, containing pus, or a lymph which is in general discolored. Vesicles, in their progress, often become pustules.

Rete mucosum, or mucous network. It is situated between the cuticle and cutis or skin. It gives color to the body.

Squamæ, scales. Squamose, or squamous—scaly.

Vesiculæ, vesicles. A vesicle is an elevation of the cuticle, containing a transparent, watery fluid.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

DR. HULL'S TRUSS.

THE very great superiority of this instrument over every other heretofore invented, as to convenience, ease, and comfort to the wearer, and its curative power, is shown by the testimony of respectable physicians, and the formal approbation of Medical Societies, but more than all by the actual cures it has performed. For a more particular description of this Truss, see the last Edition, 1826. of Thacher's Modern Practice.

Ebenezer Wight, Apothecary, Milk Street, opposite Federal Street, has just received an assortment of Umbilical and Inguinal Trusses.

March 6th.

MEDICAL LECTURES IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

THE Medical Lectures in Harvard University will begin at the Medical College, Mason Street, Boston, on the THIRD WEDNESDAY IN OCTOBER NEXT; the time having been altered from the Third Wednesday in November, at which time they formerly commenced.

WALTER CHANNING,
Dean of the Medical Faculty.

Summer Course of Midwifery Lectures.

Dr. Channing's Summer Course of Lectures in Midwifery will begin on the first Wednesday in June next. For Terms, apply to Dr. C. at his house in Common Street.

ATHENEUM:

OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.
FOR MARCH 15, 1827,

JUST published by John Cotton, 184 Washington St. corner of Franklin St.

CONTENTS.—Obliteration of Ideas—Love's Last Meeting—German Romance—The Virgin Mary's Bank; An Irish Tradition—On Contentment—The Maiden Aunt—Lady Isabel, of Glen-Allan—Man's Heart—Oxidation of Iron—A Lament for the Fairies—Autobiography of Mansie Wauch; Benjie on the Carpet—Varieties—Discoveries in Egypt—Prize chronometers—Glass—Method of softening Cast-Iron.

HOOPER'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY.

LEXICON MEDICUM; or Medical Dictionary; containing an Explan-

tion of the Terms in Anatomy, Botany, Chemistry, Materia Medica, Midwifery, Mineralogy, Pharmacy, Physiology, Practice of Physic, Surgery, and the various branches of Natural Philosophy connected with Medicine. Selected, arranged and compiled from the best authors. By Robert Hooper, M.D. F.L.S. The fourth American, from the fifth London edition, very considerably enlarged. Just published, and for sale by Wells & Lilly.

A VAPOR or SULPHUR BATH can be had at any proper hour of the day, at 3, Central Court. The proper hours are before breakfast, dinner, and tea. The best time is between 11 and 2 o'clock.

DR. PARSONS, SURGEON DENTIST.

NO. 17, WINTER STREET,

DEVOTES himself to OPERATIONS ON THE TEETH, and to the treatment of such diseases as usually fall to the department of the Dentist. Dr. P. has for many years given his particular attention to the construction of Artificial Teeth, either in entire sets, or in parts of sets; and is enabled to secure them in such a manner that they will be firm, durable, and useful.

WEBSTER'S CHEMISTRY.

RICHARDSON & LORD, No. 133, Washington street, have lately published a Manual of CHEMISTRY, by J. W. WEBSTER, M. D., Adjunct Irving Professor of Chemistry in Harvard University.

This work has been adopted as a textbook in the University at Cambridge: at the United States Military Academy, West Point; at Amherst, Burlington, Williams' and Washington Colleges; Castleton Medical School, and at several other Colleges and Medical Schools in the United States.

Orders for the work received by the publishers.

THE two first of the following works were translated from the French, and the others written, by the Editor, and are for sale at this Office.

BRERA on Worms.

BICHET on the Membranes.

Discourses on Warm and Cold Bathing.

A dissertation on Medical Education, and on the Medical Profession.

Remarks on the Dangers and Duties of Sepulture.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance; but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M. D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1827.

NO. 45.

REMARKS ON CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

Concluded from page 517.

I conclude that all or most of my readers have perused Dr. Willan's work on Cutaneous Diseases; and if they have not, I wish they would, for two reasons: first, because it is decidedly the best work extant on the subject; and secondly, because I am not writing a treatise, but merely remarks arising from the perusal of his and other works, and shall not attempt to give a description of the character or progress of any disease, being perfectly satisfied with his very accurate performance of this part of the subject. But I object to his manner of amplifying the subject; I object to his method of spinning out the history of a disease, till he tires us with the recital; I object to his incessant quotation from Greek, Latin, German, and old English authors, few of whose innumerable remedies any skilful modern practitioner would think of employing, and not stating, in many cases, any decided opinion, concerning the superior virtue or efficacy of any particular

remedies; though, from his extensive private and public practice, one would have expected him to have been capable of deciding this point in every eruptive disease.

His history of scarlatina, which occupies a hundred and fortythree pages, above a fourth part of the volume, justifies these remarks.

In the year 1803, I attended several cases of the scarlatina maligna, with Dr. Willan, and the late Dr. Hamilton. It is well known that the disease raged most violently during this period, and we lost four of our patients out of five in one family. Never were men more puzzled to know what remedies to adopt: all which Dr. Willan has recommended in his publication were employed. Emetics, purgatives, calomel and antimony; many other diaphoretics; opium, wine, and acids; bark, blisters, decoct. contray. with oxymel of squills; application of cold water, gargles of different descriptions, fumigations, &c.: all without the least good effect; all without making the

least sensible impression on the disease in any of its stages.

One fine girl, about eleven years of age, in high health and spirits in the morning, was attacked, an hour after, by the disease, and destroyed in thirtysix hours.

I may mention here that I had attended these children two years before, through the scarlatina simplex, strongly marked with every characteristic symptom, though neither of the above physicians could believe that I was not deceived, concluding that it must have been erythema; but I believe that very few medical men will now doubt the fact.

About this time, Dr. Peart published his "Practical Information on the Malignant Scarlet Fever and Sore Throat," in which he describes the wonderful effects of the subcarbonate of ammonia, and considers it to be endowed with a specific power over this disease. Like other practitioners, he was continually lamenting the loss of his patients by this dreadful malady; till, by his suggestion, he employed the subcarbonate of ammonia, in the manner he describes; and from that moment, he did not lose one patient out of nearly three hundred.

When I read this account, I immediately inquired after the character of Dr. Peart,

and finding that he was most respectable, both in talent and probity, and engaged in very considerable practice, I had no reason to doubt the truth of his statement, and therefore immediately adopted his remedy; and consonant with my own principle, that an effectual remedy for one genus will, with proper management, cure all the genera of the same order, I administered it in all the following diseases,*—erysipelas, rubeola, scarlatina, urticaria, roseola, and erythema, with all their varieties; and I am happy to be able to declare that, from that moment to the present, a space of seventeen years, I have, not only never lost a patient in the above diseases, but have never had a case of the kind that has even appeared dangerous, or that has even given me a moment's anxiety.

Of course, it will be understood, that in these diseases, a case will sometimes occur, especially of erysipelas, which may need the additional assistance of some other remedies; but this will seldom happen, if the carbonate of ammonia be given early and rapidly, as it generally prevents

* It appears to me that erysipelas is improperly classed by Dr. Willan; it is frequently unattended by any bullæ, or even the slightest vesication; and the inflammation is of the same nature as that which attends rubeola, scarlatina, and urticaria, and may be cured by the same remedies.

any disagreeable or severe symptoms from taking place. These remedies will be suggested by the understanding of any man of moderate skill in his profession, and therefore I need not mention them. But, to allay the distress of the surface, both before and after the bursting of the vesications, and to prevent sphacelation in those parts which may have such tendency, I know of no application equal to the lotion which Dr. Peart recommends, and which may be applied at all times with the greatest safety. The following is the form :

R. Ammon. Subcarb.
Plumbi Superacet. $\ddot{a}a$ 3j.
Aquæ Rosæ, Oj. M.

In addition to my own testimony of the powers of this medicine, I have that of my friend Mr. Ricardo, of Bow, whose opinion is highly valued by all who know him, and who, not believing in specifics, will not be thought to give too much credit to the virtues of any one particular remedy. He writes as follows :

"I have received your letter, requesting me to state the result of my experience of the effects of subcarbonate of ammonia, in the treatment of measles, scarlatina, and erysipelas; as I employed this medicine at your suggestion, many years ago, I lament that I have not placed on record

any *particular* cases, many such having been under my care; but, perhaps, it may be sufficient for your purpose, that I am able to declare, that the exhibition of subcarbonate of ammonia in such cases, has been attended under my direction with constant success. You know, that I am situated in the neighborhood of many schools which I have the pleasure of attending; and during twelve or fourteen years in which I have employed the subcarbonate of ammonia, I have not lost a single patient of some hundreds whom I have attended in the above diseases.

"As an additional circumstance in favor of this remedy, I must mention, that I lost two patients whom I attended with another medical gentleman, where I had not sufficient influence to have the ammonia employed. To be as particular as my memory and my present ill state of health will allow me to be,—I must state, that among the paupers I have lost two or three children; but the exhibition of the medicine was evidently neglected by the nurses, as was every other attention necessary to give the patients a chance of recovering."

It has been observed, that Dr. Peart has no claim to originality in the employment of the subcarbonate of ammonia in the cure of scarlatina; Dr.

Withering having sometimes used the same remedy many years before. But, may there not be almost as much originality in the *manner* of exhibiting a remedy as in the *first adoption* of it? Dr. Withering says, that "the volatile alkali may likewise be given *with advantage*, but it is difficult to get a sufficient quantity of it swallowed," p. 84; and he prescribes it in the following form :

R. Sal. Absinth. 3 ij.

Sal. Vol. Ammon. 3 ss.

Aq. Fontan. 3 ij. m. f. Solutio.

to be put into a quart of white wine whey, and the whole to be taken in twentyfour hours." By which, it appears to me, that he knew little of the powers of subcarbonate of ammonia in this disease. His manner of exhibiting it would destroy its effects, or at least, the effects on which I should depend for its advantages in scarlatina. Dr. Peart does not attempt to theorise on the subject ; content with the success of his remedy, he cares not in what manner it operates ; but, I will take the liberty to state, that I depend not on its diuretic, nor its dia-phoretic qualities, but believe that it possesses the power of increasing the strength of the arterial action, at the same time that it diminishes its frequency ; that it supports the powers of life without increas-

ing the heat or irritability of the system ; and by such means counteracts the tendency in the scarlatina anginosa and maligna, to ulceration and sloughing, and all the other evils which sometimes attend this dreadful disease. But, to effect such purposes, it must be given as Dr. Peart has prescribed, in a state as strongly stimulating as it can be swallowed, and not made into a mere diluent by a quart of whitewine whey.

I hope I shall not be thought to have expatiated too much on the virtues of a remedy which I have found so efficacious in my own practice ; but, I have seen so many cases of scarlatina and rubeola treated by others with the common antiphlogistic remedies, which have been so lingering, and have left such ill effects in the system, that I feel it my duty to urge the employment of the subcarbonate of ammonia as extensively as possible. I am well acquainted with the success in scarlatina attending the affusion of cold water ; but, at the same time, that the employment of it is frequently objectionable to the friends of the patient : in my own experience, the general effects of it are not equal to those produced by the ammonia. Nor do I find, that the affusion of cold water is yet employed in rubeola or erysipelas, where-

as, the subcarbonate of ammonia may be given with almost an equal degree of success in all the exanthemata attended by erysipelatous inflammation.

It is surprising to me that Dr. Willan, conscious, at this time, of his inability to stop, by any of his remedies, the dreadful progress of scarlatina maligna, and publishing a treatise, professedly to canvass the opinions and remedies of the different authors who had written on the diseases of which he treats, should not have put to the proof the assertions of Dr. Peart on such an interesting subject as scarlatina maligna, when he might have had the opportunity of contradicting the statement, if he had found it to be false, or if like me he had been convinced of the truth of it, he might have saved himself the trouble of writing three parts of his dissertation on this disease: instead of which he gives only the following passage from Dr. Peart's publication, without making a single remark on it, "A physician, near Gainsborough, considers volatile alkali to be endowed with a specific power over the malignant scarlet fever and sore throat." He dissolves two drachms of the carbonate of ammonia in five ounces of water, and directs the patient to take half a tablespoonful, or

two teaspoonfuls every two, three or four hours, according to the urgency of the symptoms. If the difficulty of swallowing abates, and the patient wishes for it, a little cold water may be added to each dose. Cold water, or toast and water, may be drank at pleasure. The above remedy was given in every form, and in every stage of the scarlatina. "Some," he says, "were glowing with universal efflorescence; in some, the extremities were swelled; in others, fetid ulcers appeared; in most, the throat was swollen and inflamed, often ulcerated; and respiration almost prevented; but, in the most alarming cases, a scorching fever, and raging delirium, rendered the patient's situation horribly distressing: yet, in all these variations of the diseases, the volatile alkali was my specific, which I administered to between two and three hundred patients, successively and successfully." "The immediate effects of the remedy are stated to be a diminution of heat, fever, and delirium, and a disposition to sleep." It is hardly necessary to mention, that during the exhibition of this remedy, the bowels should be kept in proper order; and that if, at any time, there should be any accumulation, four or five grains of calomel should be given;

gargles, likewise, should be employed.

To return to the first order of eruptions, papulæ, I have little to add to what Dr. Willan has said of the strophulus, the lichen, and their varieties. They are simple diseases, generally well understood, and commonly yield easily to the remedies prescribed for them by Dr. Willan and others.

But the lichen circumscrip-tus, and the L. agrius, are sometimes very troublesome, particularly the latter; and as they will often, if not properly opposed, continue for five or six weeks, I shall make two or three remarks on the treatment.

I give the patient, twice in a week, five grains of calomel at bedtime, and a common purge in the morning; and every day, five or six grains of the subcarbonate of ammonia every four or six hours. Under this treatment, I have no fear of any mischief from my applications to the surface: for, though I am well aware, with Dr. Willan and others, that when this eruption is suddenly repelled by cold or other means from the surface of the body, "the incident may be succeeded by violent disorder of the constitution, by great heat and thirst, an accelerated pulse, frequent vomiting, pain in the bowels, headache, and delirium," p. 44;

yet I never witnessed any repulsion, or any inconvenience of any kind, from the following applications:—

I dilute a little aromatic vinegar with one third of water; and with a piece of lint wrapped round a probe, and moistened with this acid, I slightly touch the parts which are most affected with the itching, heat, and painful tingling. This I do every day, or every other day, and in the meantime I prescribe the following lotion:—

R. Ammon. Subcarb.

Plumb. Superacetat. $\frac{aa}{9}$ $\frac{Dj.}{j.}$

Aqua Rosæ, $\frac{3}{iv}$. M.

and direct, that the same parts be moistened with it, whenever troubled with the above-mentioned sensations. I have found this treatment not only to prevent any great exasperations, such as fissures, &c., but even to shorten very much the duration of the complaint.

We should have been glad to have seen some more particular direction for the administration of the carbonate of ammonia; this, however, can easily be supplied, for we know that the best mode of taking it is in an aqueous solution,—the physician has therefore only to decide how often, and in what quantity it shall be given, and this is best done at the time of prescribing it, according to the symptoms in each particular case.

Mr. Wilkinson's pamphlet contains 87 pages, 8vo., the whole of which deserves the attentive perusal and meditation of the medical practitioner.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

Manner in which a newborn infant should be washed and dressed.—Wooden bathing vessel.—Cushion stuffed with chopped straw.—No pins in the clothes.—First shifts.

The physical and moral education of man should both commence from the first moment of his existence ; and, in fact, they are so closely united, that it is impossible to neglect the one without committing error in the other.

The infant just expelled from the womb of its mother, is a being of such a delicate nature, that it requires to be handled with the utmost caution ; for it is very possible that a slight injudicious pressure on some important part at this time, may occasion deformities in mind and body, which do not attain their full developement till many years after, and are then ascribed to causes far different from the true. For this reason it were much to be wished that the women whose office it is to perform the earliest services to newborn infants, might always be wellinstructed persons ; and that no one, who has not some knowledge of the organization of the tender being, should be allowed to wash or to dress it in its first state of natural debility.

Any one who has observed the different manner in which an ignorant nurse and a skilful nurse or physician touch an infant, just come into the world, must have been struck with the extraordi-

nary contrast. The former, supposing it a thing of course that the child should squall, tosses and rolls it about without ceremony, as if it were only a bundle of rags ; whilst the latter lifts it in the gentlest manner, avoids every sudden motion, and endeavours by all means to save it from uneasiness. I have myself seen a clever nurse wash and dress a robust infant for the first time, without once making it cry. The thing is therefore possible ; but not indeed if it is to be immediately washed in cold water, as is practised in some places. This custom has been opposed by many physicians, and I am convinced it can never be too much discouraged. The use of cold water, during the first weeks of existence, is very likely to occasion those pains in the bowels which are so common among young children, that old nurses consider them as necessarily belonging to their age ; but which are probably amongst those maladies which might be prevented by judicious treatment. A slight augmentation of cold in the atmosphere is capable of producing spasms and diarrhoea in adults of delicate constitutions, and there is every reason to suppose that infants are affected in the same manner : how much more, therefore, by the immediate contact of cold water !

It is painful to witness the severe discipline that children are usually subjected to as soon as they come into the world, preparatory to being exhibited for the admiration of relations and other visitors. In the first moments of their existence, they suffer through the vanity of those around them ; and not unfrequently in so great a degree as to save them

from ever suffering by their own; for children, when they happen to be born extremely delicate, are not always able to survive the fatigue of being washed and dressed by an unskilful hand.

The first wrapper of a newborn infant should be a piece of light flannel, lined with soft linen, in which it should be covered all over, except on the face; and if the person who receives it be not expert at passing this over the head conveniently, a little cap of the same materials should be prepared, so that no part, but what is necessary for breathing, should be exposed to the air. In this state it should be allowed to remain, lying perfectly still, on its side, for two or three hours; but not unobserved during this time, as some accident might occur for which medical assistance would be requisite.

The washing of a newborn infant ought not to give it pain; and in fact, if performed in a convenient manner, would rather be likely to occasion agreeable than disagreeable sensations. The best method I have ever seen is that employed at Vienna, where they have for this purpose a wooden vessel made in the form of a long oval tub, of dimensions proportioned to the use for which it is designed. It is filled with tepid* water, in which may be mixed a little soap if thought necessary, and in this bath the infant is placed by the attendant, who supports it under the back of the head with the hand. After it has remained three or four minutes in the water, which should be in sufficient quantity to make it float, she rubs

it tenderly all over with a soft sponge, and then dries it gently with a warm napkin. An attendant should be ready to cover the child the moment it is lifted out of the water, and care should be taken to put the napkin *first over*, rather than *under*, its body, as this will prevent it from feeling a painful sensation by the impression of the comparatively cold air. It is scarcely necessary to add that this first washing should take place in a warm room, with all the doors and windows closed.

Besides the wooden vessel abovementioned, there is also prepared a large square cushion, which is used in dressing the child; and this is laid on a table, which is extremely convenient for the person employed in this office. It is filled with chopped straw in such a manner as to be pliable to the weight of the infant, and may be pressed into any form that is commodious. On this the child is laid when taken out of the bath, a warm napkin having been previously spread over it; and, after being well dried in a position which gives no fatigue, the child is thus dressed without having its arms pulled about unnecessarily, or being forced into the unnatural posture of sitting. The clothes of the child are made to fasten behind, and so shaped as to cover the breast and arms; a necessary precaution in cold climates, and an advantage in all. Indeed I have been convinced by repeated observation in various countries, that children who have their bosoms and arms covered for the first two years, are not subject to those severe coughs and inflammations of the lungs which are, during the time of teething, fatal to so many in the British Islands.

* As warm as milk just drawn from the cow.

Another thing in the dress of infants at Vienna, as well as in many other places on the Continent, deserves also to be imitated ; which is, that not one pin is employed in their clothing, every article that requires to be fastened having strings ; and the person who ties them turns the child on its side as it lies on the straw cushion, so that it suffers no inconvenience. Some English nurses may, perhaps, say that it is impossible to dress a child entirely without pins ; but what is done in one place may be done in another, and I recommend nothing of which I have not witnessed the advantage.

So long as it is necessary to have the child swathed, this is done with peculiar ease by laying it on its back on the straw cushion, holding up the feet with one hand, or making an attendant do so, and rolling the bandage round it with the other. The only pressure that should be made on the body of an infant, is that which is required for some time after the division of the umbilical cord ; and which is often a beneficial part of the clothing, after it has ceased to be the necessary bandage of a wound. The swathe should be made of soft linen or cotton doubled, without seam or hem, and should have two strings at one end, long enough to go once round the body and to tie. It should be rather more than an inch and a half in breadth,* and two or three yards in length, according to the size of the child. When this is applied by a judicious hand, it is in many cases advantageous, especially when there

has been any griping or looseness, both on account of the warmth, and of the gentle pressure on the bowels ; and might in some instances be continued with good effect for three months, or even longer, if the weather be cold ; for no diminution in a child's clothing should ever take place except in a warm season.

The first shifts should be made with broad, flat seams, and should never be large enough to fall into plaits ; everything that touches the skin of an infant should be soft and smooth ; those, therefore, who cannot afford to have shifts of fine cambric, should make use of very old linen or soft cotton for this purpose. Everything the child wears should be made to tie with narrow tape or flat bobbin, and care should be taken to put the knots where they cannot occasion uneasiness.

To many readers this exactness may appear superfluous ; for those who have not been accustomed to observe young children with a medical and philosophic eye, are by no means aware of the early developement of their physical and moral sensibility, and therefore do not pay sufficient attention to the trifling circumstances which may hurt their feelings. An affectionate mother will not, however, despise these precautions, but consider every hint which may contribute to the welfare and comfort of her infant as well deserving of her notice.

This article is well written ; very few physicians have treated it so well. We differ a little only in a few points from this excellent "Grandmother" in her "advice to young mothers." We must think, from some experience, and a good deal of at-

* We should prefer the width to be two or three inches.—ED.

tention to the subject, that any cap or covering for the head is entirely useless at least,—and our strong impression goes still further—that it is injurious. In passing through a cold passage, in the first weeks or months of existence, a handkerchief or some light covering should be loosely thrown over the head; but in a nursery in which the proper attention is paid to temperature, no covering of the head is at all requisite. For the cut straw of the authoress, we should prefer the husks of our Indian corn. The outer hard husks should be rejected, and the hard end of the inner husks attached to the cob should be cut off, and the husk divided with a hatchel or comb into slips of about half an inch wide. So prepared, these husks make a delightful bed for every stage of life, from infancy to age. They are strong, elastic, sweet, and durable. They are far superior to straw, and we would add, to feathers. We appeal to all who have tried the experiment for their concurrence and support in this opinion. The husks may be placed loosely in a sack, as our straw commonly is, and this may do for infants, but for children of some years and adults, it is far better to make a mattress of them. This for adults should be six or eight inches thick. This mattress, placed over straw, or on a bedstead in which the sacking is kept tight, even and horizontal, will be a bed fit for princes, and far better for sleep, vigor and elasticity, than most princes are blessed with. This bed is good for winter and for summer, and for persons of all ages and conditions.

HYOSCYAMUS AND CAMPHOR.

Some further communications have been made to the Edinburgh Journal of Medical Science, respecting the above combination in affections of the bladder and urethra, by Mr. B. Bell. Camphor has long been known to have a peculiar sedative effect on the urinary organs, and hyoscyamus is every day coming more and more into use, as a substitute for opium, in almost every kind of irritation and irritability. Mr. Bell remarks that camphor must be given in large doses, and frequently repeated—nor can we be assured that the system is under its influence, till the pulse be more or less affected—or even a slight degree of vertigo produced. Mr. Bell has found it necessary, in a few cases, to continue the employment of camphor, where the chordæ, ardor urinæ, and irritable bladder, were in a high degree, even after the vertigo had taken place. But such is only necessary in extreme cases. Camphor, when taken alone, is very apt to occasion nausea, heartburn, and sometimes tremors. An anodyne, therefore, which does not occasion constipation, is a necessary adjunct. Hyoscyamus has been found to answer the purpose well, especially in the form of extract. The following are the formulæ which Mr. Bell generally uses:—

1. R. Gum. camphoræ, gr. iii.
Ext. hyosciami, gr. ij. M. and
form into one pill.
2. R. Gum. camphoræ,
Ext. hyoscyami, aa gr. ij.
Pulv. capsici, gr. i. M. and
form into one pill.

No. 3 is a grain of ipecacuan instead of the capsicum. In general we find that Mr. Bell gives

the above quantity every third, fourth, or sixth hour, according to circumstances. The object is, to allay local irritation, without occasioning constitutional disturbance. In many instances the discharge of gonorrhœa ceases during the exhibition of the medicine, but this is not the object of the remedy---this object being to allay the distressing ardor urinæ and chordee.—*Medico Chirurgical Review.*

MR. EARLE ON LOCAL IRRITATION.

The “constitutional origin of local diseases” has become so prevailing as greatly to obscure the “local origin of constitutional diseases.” The former is the fashionable doctrine in England—the latter in France. Truth lies between; and we are much inclined to think that, as knowledge increases, the local seats of what are considered general diseases will become more conspicuous. The case related by Mr. Earle is a very curious example of the influence of a local irritation over the constitution at large.

A man had been wounded by a musket bullet in the East Indies, so long back as the year 1822. The thigh bone had been fractured, but the ball was removed, and all went on well for six weeks, when the fracture was displaced. After this, repeated abscesses formed, accompanied by much constitutional disturbance. There was a large cicatrix in the place where the ball had entered, and, in its middle, the opening of a fistula, leading to the bone. The bone itself was enlarged. Issues were made in the neighborhood of the supposed diseased bone, and the general health strictly attended to. The

fistulous opening frequently closed, and then opened again; and, during the formation of these abscesses, his health suffered severely, and he had many violent rigors. Acute rheumatism then attacked him in the joints, and afterwards retroceded to the chest and diaphragm, requiring active measures. Then he became affected with a well-marked intermittent fever, which was relieved by bark and ammonia. Worn out by these repeated constitutional attacks, the poor man requested to have his limb amputated. But Mr. Earle, conceiving that there might be some foreign body lodged in the neighboring parts, keeping up irritation, examined the limb with great attention, and, on discovering a suspicious point, he there made an incision, and detected a large portion of dead bone, quite loose. This was readily extracted, together with two smaller pieces. They were fragments of the femur, being quite bleached and inodorous. From the very day after the operation, all constitutional disturbance ceased—the man rapidly regained his health and spirits—and was discharged quite well.

We agree with Mr. Earle, that the above is a striking example of the effect of local irritation on the constitution, and one in which the connexion between cause and effect is unequivocally established.—*Med. and Phys. Journal.*

MR. CHEVALIER ON BELLADONNA.

Mr. Bayley, of Harwich, drew the attention of the Profession to the employment of belladonna, many years ago, in cases of tic dououreux, and other painful affections; and, more recently, Mr. Blackett has published some

interesting papers on the external employment of this medicine.

Mr. Chevalier has now stated his experience of the efficacy of belladonna externally employed, in a number of complaints, all, however, agreeing in one particular—pain or morbid irritability. The first case in which he tried the belladonna was that of a stricture, attended with excessive irritability of the urethra. The extract, at first mixed with opium, and afterwards pure, was introduced on a bougie, and the morbid sensibility was soon reduced. To scrofulous glands, Mr. C. has applied the belladonna ointment, equal parts of the extract and of some other ointment with striking advantage. In many cases of inflamed periosteum, venereal nodes, scrofulous diseases of the bones and joints, the extract of belladonna has proved a soothing application. In one case where a tumor had formed on the back of the hand, as large as half an orange, and where the hand was condemned to amputation, the swelling dispersed in less than ten weeks, under the belladonna plaster first, and ultimately the pure extract. In the case of a boy, whose knee was so much diseased that amputation was recommended, but not submitted to—where the kneejoint was imperfectly ankylosed, the condyles enlarged, and the capsular ligament distended with fluid, the belladonna plaster, after the severity of the pyrexial symptoms was abated by proper local and general means, was employed, and, under its use, the joint diminished in size, the boy's health improved—and, by the use of splints and other mechanical means, the joint was brought near-

ly into a right line. In cutaneous affections, this remedy has proved very useful in our author's hands. Erysipelas, cancers, inflammatory and spasmodic affections of the chest, have all been benefited by the belladonna plaster. Toothache, rheumatism, even of the acute kind, and many other painful affections, have been relieved by this narcotic application in the hands of Mr. Chevalier. In the cases of between two and three hundred persons, in private practice, and in the Westminster Dispensary, there were very few in which the remedy failed to do good—"none in which it appears to have done harm." This is very grateful intelligence to those afflicted with pain; but, like the account of all other favorite remedies, it must be taken *cum grano salis*. There can be no doubt that belladonna is a powerful sedative, and that it is more effectual than almost any other in reducing morbid sensibility of parts, and morbid contractility of the muscular fibre. It may, therefore, be more frequently used than it is, in cases of pain, irritation, and rigidity. On the Continent it has been much employed, especially by Madame La Chapelle, as an application to the os uteri, where this muscular ring continued too long contracted after labor pains had come on.—In this country we believe it is seldom used for this purpose, and we have heard it objected to by an eminent accoucheur as dangerous, lest the paralyzing influence of the belladonna should extend further than was intended, and render torpid the muscular fibres of the uterus itself. We know not whether this objection be well or ill founded.—*Med. and Phys. Journ.*

TUBERCLES.

The manner in which the tubercles are formed which are found in the great majority of cases of pulmonary phthisis, is as yet far from being determined: Bayle and Laennec were decidedly of opinion, that they were distinct morbid tissues. Broussais regards them as the production of bronchitis, and M. Andral as a morbid secretion. Mr. Quain, in his note to the translation of Martinet's Manuel of Pathology, page 209, has made the following remarks on tubercles:—

"Dupuy, professor at the Veterinary School at Alfort, after having investigated the production of tubercles in several of the ruminant animals, has come to the conclusion, that the matter of tubercles is in the first instance *secreted* in a semifluid state, which, after a while, becomes indurated. In several cases in which hydatids were developed in the lungs of animals, he found a pale liquid deposited between the external surface of the hydatid, and the cellular membranes which invested it. In some cases the hydatid was destroyed, and the cavity which it occupied became filled with *tubercular matter secreted by the cyst*. These observations are confirmed by Andral. He found, in the liver of a rabbit, a mixture of tubercles and hydatids, the latter being in a great variety of conditions. Some were entire, and separated from the substance of the liver by a thin layer of condensed cellular membrane; others, also entire, were surrounded by matters not unlike a mixture of chalk and water: finally, a third set were broken down, so that only a few portions of their gelatinous structure could be recognized, the place which they occupied being nearly filled up by the matter just described. These facts are important in many points of view, and particularly as they throw some light on the opinions of Dr. Baron on the nature of tubercles. He considers that a transparent ves-

icle, which he calls an hydatid, constitutes the first stage of tubercle; but though this opinion is inculcated in a very decided, I had almost said dogmatic tone, it is by no means so tenable as the Doctor seems to think. Tubercle and hydatid are constantly found together in the same part, and under every variety of form and size, and, as we have just seen, the one is often supplanted, as it were, by the other; but this is quite a different process from the conversion of the one into the other. If hydatids be living organized beings, according to the opinions of all those naturalists who have examined the entozoa, it is very difficult to conceive how they can be considered as identical with tubercle, which all agree in regarding merely as an accidental production or texture developed in the substance of organs."

"M. Andral, in his late work, contends, that the tubercle is the product of a morbid secretion, and that this process is preceded by an active congestion in the part, similar to that which occurs in every case while secretion is going on, whether healthy or unhealthy. Meckel has long since advanced the same doctrine. He is made to say, in the French translation of his Human Anatomy, Vol. I. p. 531, 'Accidental formations are sometimes produced by a peculiar fluid, effused expressly in order to give them origin. This is the way in which all accidental textures are formed, whether they have or have not any resemblance with parts already existing in the economy.' Mr. Wardrop seems to have come to the same conclusion, at least with regard to one of the productions of this class. When treating of fungus melanodes, he observes, that 'it has no smell, and seems more to resemble a secretion than a decomposition.' M. Andral, as has been observed, asserts the same of tubercle, whilst Meckel extends the position to them all. This is a remarkable coincidence of opinion be-

tween inquirers of such deserved celebrity."

M. Cruveillier, in a late number of the *Nouvelle Bibliotheque*, has given a new theory respecting the formation of these bodies, founded on some experiments, which we will now present to our readers. This anatominist, after injecting mercury into the femoral artery of a dog, perceived, on dissecting the thigh of the animal, that the soft parts were filled with miliary tubercles, perfectly regular, formed by a caseous matter, in the centre of which was an extremely small globule of mercury. He made the same injection into the trachea of several other dogs; the first died two days after the injection; the second was killed twelve days afterwards; the third died, in the manner of an animal affected with phthisis, at the end of one month. In all, M. Cruveillier observed the tubercular concretions; in the last especially, the lungs were studded with a great number of tubercles, of which some were insulated, others agglomerated: they had all the physical characters of miliary tubercles, and contained each a globule of mercury in their centre. M. Cruveillier thinks that the production of the tubercle is the result of inflammation limited to the internal surface of the air cells of the lungs, whilst pneumonia is increased action of the bloodvessels, ramifying on the surface of the aircells. The inflammation, when external, is pneumonia, when internal, tubercular.

This theory, which is merely an extension of the one advanced by Broussais, applies merely to the formation of tubercles in one part of the body only, and is evidently founded on too narrow a basis to be received as an explanation of the formation of these bodies. M. Cruveillier has refined a little too much, and, for consistency sake, he should have said, that whilst an increased action of the pulmonary arteries produces pneumonia, the same state

of the bronchial arteries produces tubercles.

BOTANY.

The celebrated Dutch naturalist, Dr. C. C. Blume, has safely returned to Europe, after nine years' residence in the island of Java. Favoured by circumstances, and devoting himself with indefatigable zeal to the natural history of that remarkable island, he has brought home immense collections of natural productions of every kind.

Yeast, after it has become putrid and useless to the brewer or baker, is one of the most powerful manures in existence. When mixed with water, it will effect wonders if applied to plants as a liquid manure.

The authorities in Baltimore are authorised to take up all destitute children begging in the streets, and bind them out as apprentices; and they have more applications for such children as apprentices, than they can supply.

Dr. Newbour, of Brussels, is said to have discovered an operation by which he can cure the deaf and dumb.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1827.

THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

We are happy to disseminate the following information as far as our locomotive power extends, and if those who are most concerned in possessing it, will condescend to preserve it, they will save themselves and their friends a good deal of inconvenience which may thus be very easily avoided to both parties.

Licentiates of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and Doctors of Medicine of Harvard University, have a right to become Fellows of

the Society by complying with the Bylaws of the same, and the Laws of the Commonwealth, made in relation thereto. The following statement of the method to be pursued for this purpose is drawn up for their information.

1st. All licentiates of the Society and Doctors of Medicine of Harvard University, after having been in practice at least three years, who wish to become Fellows of the Society, must make application for the purpose to the Counsellors in writing, addressed to the Recording Secretary.

2d. In conformity with a law of the Commonwealth, they must transmit, with this application, a certificate that they have been in practice at least three years, and also that they sustain a good moral character.

3d. This certificate may be signed by a Fellow of the Society, or the Clergyman, or one of the Selectmen, or any other respectable inhabitant of the town in which the candidate resides.

4th. The candidates must send with their application their license or diploma, as the case may be, and if this should not be convenient, "a certificate from some Fellow of the Society, that he has seen the license or diploma; and he shall particularly state the date thereof."

5th. After receiving notice from the Corresponding Secretary of their admission, they must signify to him in writing their acceptance of the Fellowship, and their assent to the laws of the Society.

Gentlemen residing out of New-England, are desired, when they order this paper to be sent to them, to add the name of the county and of the State, to that of the town or place in which they live. We have so

many new States, counties, &c. constantly growing up within our extensive Union, that without some care and minuteness of this kind, the uncertainties and disappointments which in some instances we have already experienced, will continue to occur.

The *Journal des Débats* of Nov. 7, ult. contains a full biographical notice of the late celebrated physician *Pinel*, of Paris, by the Baron *Dupuytren*.

DICTIONARY.

Bronchitis, an inflammation of the bronchos, or windpipe.

Bulla, bullæ, plural; a clear vesicle, arising from burns, scalds, &c.

Entozoa, worms inhabiting the human body.

Erythema, a morbid redness of the skin.

Exanthemata, diseases beginning with fever, and followed by an eruption on the skin,—as measles, &c.

Hydatids, very singular animals, formed like a bladder, and distended with an aqueous fluid. These animals are sometimes formed in the natural cavities of the body, as the abdomen and ventricles of the brain, but more frequently in the liver, kidneys and lungs, in which they produce diseased actions.

Pus, matter. A whitish, bland, creamlike fluid, found in abscesses, or on the surface of sores. It is distinguished, according to its nature, into laudable or good pus, scrophulous, serous, ichorous pus, &c.

Phthisis pulmonalis, pulmonary consumption.

Rubeola, from *ruber*, red; the measles.

Tetanus, a spasmodic rigidity of almost the whole body.

Tubercles, hard superficial tumors, circumscribed and permanent,—or proceeding very slowly to suppuration.

Urticaria, the nettle rash.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

DR. HULL'S TRUSS.

THE very great superiority of this instrument over every other heretofore invented, as to convenience, ease, and comfort to the wearer, and its curative power, is shown by the testimony of respectable physicians, and the formal approbation of Medical Societies; but more than all by the actual cures it has performed. For a more particular description of this Truss, see the last Edition, 1826, of Thacher's Modern Practice.

Ebenezer Wight, Apothecary, Milk Street, opposite Federal Street, has just received an assortment of Umbilical and Inguinal Trusses.

March 6th.

THE STUDY OF MEDICINE. By John Mason Good. In five volumes. Fourth American Edition. Reprinted from the last London edition. Greatly improved and enlarged. Lately published, and for sale by Wells & Lilly.

A NEW EDITION OF
THACHER'S MILITARY
JOURNAL
OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

COTONS & BARNARD have in the press, and will publish in a few days, A MILITARY JOURNAL DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR, from 1775 to 1783; describing interesting events and Transactions of this period; with numerous Historical Facts and Anecdotes, from the Original Manuscript. To which is added an Appendix, containing Biographical Sketches, of several General Officers. By JAMES THACHER, M. D. late Surgeon in the American Army. Second Edition, Revised and Corrected.

"As Americans we hail with delight any attempt to rescue from oblivion the words or actions of those whose names we have been taught to revere."

March 27.

HOOPER'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY. LEXICON MEDICUM; or Medical Dictionary; containing an Explanation of the Terms in Anatomy, Botany, Chemistry, Materia Medica, Midwifery,

Mineralogy, Pharmacy, Physiology, Practice of Physic, Surgery, and the various branches of Natural Philosophy connected with Medicine. Selected, arranged and compiled from the best authors. By Robert Hooper, M.D. F.L.S. The fourth American, from the fifth London edition, very considerably enlarged. Just published, and for sale by Wells & Lilly.

AVAPOR or SULPHUR BATH can be had at any proper hour of the day, at 3, Central Court. The proper hours are before breakfast, dinner, and tea. The best time is between 11 and 2 o'clock.

DR. PARSONS, SURGEON DENTIST,
NO. 17, WINTER STREET,

DEVOTES himself to OPERATIONS ON THE TEETH, and to the treatment of such diseases as usually fall to the department of the Dentist. Dr. P. has for many years given his particular attention to the construction of Artificial Teeth, either in entire sets, or in parts of sets; and is enabled to secure them in such a manner that they will be firm, durable, and useful.

THE two first of the following works were translated from the French, and the others written, by the Editor, and are for sale at this Office.

BRERA on Worms.

BICHAT on the Membranes.

Discourses on Warm and Cold Bathing. A Dissertation on Medical Education, and on the Medical Profession.

Remarks on the Dangers and Duties of Sepulture,

MEDICAL LECTURES IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

THE Medical Lectures in Harvard University will begin at the Medical College, Mason Street, Boston, on the THIRD WEDNESDAY IN OCTOBER NEXT; the time having been altered from the Third Wednesday in November, at which time they formerly commenced.

WALTER CHANNING,
Dean of the Medical Faculty.

Summer Course of Midwifery Lectures.

Dr. Channing's Summer Course of Lectures in Midwifery will begin on the first Wednesday in June next. For Terms, apply to Dr. C. at his house in Common Street.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M.D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1827.

NO. 46.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA.

An Inquiry into the Functions of the Liver, in preserving the Health, and removing the Diseases of the Animal Economy.
By ROBERT BRIGGS, M.D.

The liver is viewed by the great majority of physiologists, as merely an auxiliary organ to the stomach and intestines, in performing the work of digestion. A variety of considerations lead to the conviction, that its primary operations are of a different kind; and that if it contributes at all, directly to the digestive process, this is but a secondary effect.

When we take into consideration the magnitude of the liver, its situation, its connections sympathetically with every organ of the body, its contiguity to, and direct communication with, what may justly be considered the great centre of the involuntary nervous system, its large supply of blood from venous sources, and this derived almost entirely from digestive organs, and the comparatively unimportant effects produced by the fluid secreted, we shall be led at least to doubt, whether this great viscus does not perform other offices, more essential to the preservation of life than those generally attributed to it.

The great size of this viscus in the fetus, when compared with every other, the secretion of bile

at a time, and under circumstances which can require none to be present in the intestines for the purposes of digestion, the quantities of this fluid poured out at all periods of life, after the digestive apparatus has been called into action; when not at all required in consequence of their being no materials present to be digested, and when there are materials, if the system is laboring under disease, bile not producing the effect of changing them into that state necessary to afford nutrition; chyle, the form to which all nutritious articles must be reduced, before they enter the lacteals, being as readily and effectually formed when the biliary duct is completely obstructed, as when most free, urges on us the conviction, that this organ is designed for other purposes.

The doctrine which is attempted to be maintained in this essay, is, that the liver acts the part of a guardian to the general system, preserving the purity of the circulating fluids in a state of health, and freeing them from the contamination induced by disease.

The placenta performs for the fetus the offices of both respiratory and digestive organs. The blood sent by the circulatory system of the fetus, is freed by the placenta from certain impurities, as it is by the lungs subsequent to birth. Nutritious matters are

also furnished by the placenta, mingled with the blood returned by the umbilical vein. Far the greater part of this blood circulates through the liver, in the same manner which the blood from the digestive organ does after birth, when the supplies of digested materials furnished by the placenta are cut off, and now supplied by the stomach and intestines. M. Magendie has established the fact, that veins perform the office of absorbents. The branches which when united form the vena portæ, arise from the surface of the digestive organs, and must necessarily carry blood of qualities very different from any other portion of the vascular system. The lacteals all pass through glands before they reach the thoracic duct; the fluids which they carry undergo a decided change in passing these bodies. The lymphatics are believed by Dr. Chapman to convey matters formed by the waste of the body, and unfit for further use. The fluids which they carry, find their way out of the system by no direct route, but pass again into the general circulation.

If the fluids conveyed by the lymphatics, can no longer serve any valuable purpose in the body, they must be thrown off by some emunctory, or they would soon produce disease. Portions of these fluids may be thrown off in the form of perspiration, urine, &c., but for reasons which will be presently assigned, it is believed the larger part passes out elaborated into the form of bile.

In the continued wear of the various machinery of the living body, large quantities of matter worn out and unfit for the purposes of animal life must be

thrown off. By what organ is the office performed, of separating these matters from the circulating mass, and eliminating them from the system? When the body has acquired its full growth, the quantity daily thrown off, must be equal to the amount of nutrition taken in, otherwise a continued increase must progressively go on, ad infinitum. We know, that the several secretions taken together, amount to about the quantity of food and drink taken in, and bile is known to constitute a very considerable part of the feces in a state of health. The skin, the kidneys, the mucous follicles of the intestines, &c., secrete fluids composed principally of oxygen and hydrogen in the form of water, holding certain saline substances in solution; whereas bile contains the greater number of the salts held in solution, by the more fluid secretions, in addition to which, the substance contributing most largely to its composition is carbon, one of the principal ingredients in animal solids.

The humoral pathologists labored to account for every phenomenon exhibited in disease, by changes in the fluids. A number of circumstances remained unexplained on these principles, and a more rational theory was brought into view by admitting the solids to a participation in the production of morbid action. It is a universal disposition in the mind of man, to go to extremes with every new and favorite theory. The system ascribing the production of disease to the action of the solids, ultimately usurped entirely the place of humoral change, and the latter when admitted, was viewed as but the consequence of the

former, but most frequently denied to exist at all.

Within comparatively a few years, however, the humoral doctrines have been again called into requisition, and from the wreck of former opinions, a newly modified system has been reared.

That there are changes produced in the circulating fluids of the body laboring under disease, cannot be denied; whether we admit them as cause or effect, is not material to the present inquiry.

The sentiment insisted on in this essay is, that the liver by its increased secretion, frees the general system from some offending matter; or by its own action in forming its fluids, changes the action of the nervous and vascular systems, from disease to health. What it is that constitutes disease, or what the proximate cause is, we know not; why bloodletting tends to reduce diseased action in inflammatory affections, or why certain stimulants have the effect of restoring a more salutary condition, in the advanced stages of typhus, or indeed why any particular agent produces an effect peculiar to itself, and different from others, we know as little. But from experience and observation, it has been ascertained, that such is the law of the animal economy, and such is all we know of it. Why an increased hepatic secretion should have the effect of relieving the system at large, or any particular organ from that condition which constitutes a departure from healthy action, we are equally ignorant. That this, however, is the fact, will now be attempted to be shown.

In fevers of every character, we find the action of all the other

glands greatly diminished, some entirely suspended. The salivary glands cease in a great degree to pour out their fluid, the gastric juice is no longer supplied by the coats of the stomach, the bowels become torpid, the quantity of urine lessened, the skin dry and parched, while the liver is found to assume an increased action, and bile is poured out in larger quantities.

When the liver is in a diseased situation itself, at the time the general system is invaded by disease, not produced by the hepatic affection, or any individual organ becomes deranged in its functions, or the diseased action of the general system is such as to suspend the functions of the liver; these diseases are found under such circumstances much more difficult to control, and impossible to be removed, till the liver is so far restored to a healthful condition, as to be able to resume its wonted action.

In yellow fever, one diagnostic symptom is the absence of bile, the appearance of which is viewed as a favorable circumstance.

In cholera morbus and dysentery, no amendment is discoverable till bile is freely formed.

Cholera infantum belongs to the general class of febrile diseases, the remedies for which are those calculated to correct the vices of the biliary functions.

In dyspepsia the liver is found in every instance to be excited into increased action. In many cases of this disease, the stomach is relieved from its disorder, but the task imposed on the liver is such, that it is often goaded into disease itself. If no remedial course is adopted, to relieve it from its increased burthens, struc-

tural derangement is at length produced, and it consequently ceases to carry on that process, by which the system was preserved from destruction. Under these circumstances, the stomach does not usually return to that condition from which it had been relieved by the vicarious office of the liver, but assumes a new diseased action, by which an effort is made, if the expression may be allowed, to personate the liver relatively to the general system, in the secretion of bile. It has been ascertained by Sir W. Phillip, that the green watery fluid ejected from the stomachs of dyspeptics, who have been long diseased, is not a secretion of the liver, but an imitative process of the stomach itself.

In hydrocephalus, whether we view the state of the liver as cause or effect, the reasoning still holds good, as to the essential necessity of the biliary secretion, to the restoration of health. Whatever mode of practice may be adopted, till the biliary secretion is duly excited, no mitigation of cerebral disease is ever evinced.

Obstinate ulcers of the surface, indurated tumors affecting the breasts of females, and exhibiting all the threatening characters of incipient scirrhous; are frequently removed by correcting the state of the hepatic functions.

In chlorosis, hysteria, hypochondria, chorea, &c., diseases belonging to the class of nervous affections, the principle governing the remedial course is still the same. Whatever may be the plan of treatment, till the liver is brought to assume an action sufficiently vigorous to free the general system from the offending material, or that modification of ac-

tion which constitutes disease, no benefit is derived. That a state of the fluids exists in these and many other diseases, differing from that presented in health; or a modification of action tantamount in effect, is inferrible from the character of the biliary secretions, when the hepatic functions are brought to assume the curative process. The fluids discharged from the biliary ducts, at first bear but a distant resemblance to healthy bile, and the patient is found to improve, in proportion to the approach of this fluid to a healthy character.

The increased quantities of bile thrown out at the termination of a paroxysm of intermittent, has been attempted to be accounted for, by the quantities of blood driven to the interior organs, by the spasms affecting the skin. This position cannot be maintained.

Under this view of the subject, in continued fevers, after all coldness of the surface ceases, and universal increase of temperature pervades the exteriors, the quantities of bile should be greatly reduced; instead of being increased, as is almost invariably the case.

The application of cold water to the skin at the height of the febrile paroxysm, should have the effect, in some degree, of producing the same result as the cold stage of an intermittent, by driving the circulating blood in greater quantities to the interior, and thus increasing the quantity of bile. That which is contrary to all this takes place. * In proportion as the heat is reduced, we find the quantity of bile lessened. In this process the heat is reduced, and consequently a morbid stimulus is removed, which when present, though generated by the

action of the system itself, reacts on this system and increases the violence of disordered action. In proportion as this violent action is diminished by the abstraction of any stimulating agent, the demand on the liver as an emunctory is reduced.

Another theory attempts to account for the increased flow of bile, particularly in idiopathic fevers, by supposing the miasmatic or effluvial poison, to be taken into the stomach, and there first producing gastric irritation, that the liver is called into action sympathetically, and increased quantities of bile are the consequence.

Another mode of accounting for increased quantities of bile is by considering this as the result of general increased action of the vascular system, and of the liver as a part of this whole.

If the first of these suppositions were correct, we should as the first effect of the morbid poison, have an increased secretion of gastric juice, hunger, vigorous and rapid digestion; the reverse of all this is found to exist.

Under the second hypothesis, the secretion of every glandular viscous of the body should be increased. We should be justified, under this theory, in expecting during the existence of acute fever, a display of increased mental energies, a larger flow of saliva, greater quantities of gastric juice, consequently keen appetite and larger quantities of bile; and if this contributed as essentially to the process of digestion as is generally conceived, food taken in obedience to the appetite, created by an abundance of gastric juice, would be rapidly converted into chyle, and conveyed into the system; an increased flow of

urine would be the consequence of increased action of the kidneys, a free perspiration from the cutaneous vessels, and in short, we should have every febrile patient thriving and fattening in a direct ratio to the violence of his disease.

In different diseases, and different stages of the same disease, the character of the hepatic secretion is discovered widely to differ; under all, or any of which circumstances, no local affection of the liver itself is found to exist.

How shall we account for these various products of the same organ, while itself is not diseased; but by supposing its action to be accommodated to the necessities of the system over which it exerts a protecting and delivering power.

In forming its secretions, whether it derives the materials from offending matters circulating with the fluids of the body, or whether it is by changing the ordinary state of the fluids into something different, so as to act salutarily on a morbid condition of the solids, and thus effect a restorative change, or by what other mode the result is produced, remains yet to be ascertained. In different diseases, that the hepatic secretion is widely variant, is a truth known to every tyro.

We find the liver throwing out various fluids, from those transparent, colorless, and tasteless, through all the varieties of yellow, green, blue, black, and red; these possessing every degree of consistency, from the fluidity of water, to the firmness of coagulated blood; and lastly blood itself. The blood discharged from this organ is viewed as a secretion. Among other reasons for this opinion, are those that arise

from the difficulty of conceiving by what channels it obtains egression in such quantities, than by those which give exit to bile in health, and its destitution of the properties of coagulation.

Febrile patients are found not unfrequently laboring under diarrhoea ; when the matter discharged is principally bile, the disease soon ceases, and health is restored, unless the affection is kept up by obstruction of the mesenteric glands. But where no bile is secreted, whatever quantities of fluid may be thrown out, it is unproductive of good.

The observation of every practitioner must have furnished him with repeated instances of the merely transient effects produced on febrile action by bloodletting, purgatives, and the whole routine of evacuants, so long as any degree of torpor pervaded the functions of the liver.

In almost all cases of protracted fever, the liver is found to a greater or less degree, in the one or the other of two very opposite states, that of torpor or inflammation. In either condition, we find the disease obstinately running on, till recourse is had to those agents which are known to exert something like a specific influence over the diseased actions of this viscus. Amid this defiance of every other order of remedy, a few grains of some mercurial preparation are found to act like a charm, in restoring order and tranquillity to the system.

OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF ALIMENTS.

PARIS ON DIET.

The arrangements which different authors have proposed will be found to vary according to the

particular theory by which each may have been influenced. The chemist investigates the composition of an aliment, arranges it according to the proximate principles which predominate in its composition. The naturalist, on the other hand, merely considers to what division in his system each article of diet belongs, and assigns to it a corresponding place in his arrangement ; while the empirical practitioner distributes the various kinds of food in an order which answers to his notions of their relative nutritive value, or to the supposed facility with which they are digested in the stomach. If there be any truth in our dietetic researches, or any natural affinity between the objects of our classification, the theory of the arrangement will be unimportant ; for, however greatly the roads of our pursuit may vary, we must ultimately arrive at the same goal.

Chemistry has satisfactorily demonstrated the nature of these proximate principles of organic matter, on the presence of which the nutritive qualities depend, namely, *fibrin, albumen, gelatin, and fat, gluten, fecula or starch, mucilage, sugar, acids, &c.* Assuming that the variety, observable in the nutritive value of different substances arises from the predominance of one or more of these principles, we may conveniently distribute the NUTRIENTIA into the following nine classes :

Cl. I FIBRINOUS ALIMENTS. Comprehending the flesh and blood of various animals, especially such as have arrived at puberty : venison, beef, mutton, hare.

Cl. II. ALBUMINOUS. Eggs ; certain animal matter.

Cl. III. GELATINOUS ALIMENTS. The flesh of young animals; veal, chickens, calf's foot, certain fishes.

Cl. IV. FATTY AND OILY ALIMENTS. Animal fats, oils and butter; cocoa, &c.; ducks, pork, geese, eels, &c.

Cl. V. CASEOUS ALIMENTS. The different kinds of milk, cheese, &c.

Cl. VI. FARINACEOUS ALIMENTS. Wheat, barley, oats, rice, rye, potatoe; sago, arrow-root, &c.

Cl. VII. MUCILAGINOUS ALIMENTS. Carrots, turnips, asparagus, cabbage, &c.

Cl. VIII. SWEET ALIMENTS. The different kinds of sugar, figs, dates, &c.; carrots.

Cl. IX. ACIDULOUS ALIMENTS. Oranges, apples, and other acescent fruits.

To these we may add CONDIMENTS; such as salt, the varieties of pepper, mustard,, horseradish, vinegar, &c.

In classing the different species of potations, we may, in like manner, be governed by the chemical composition which distinguishes them. They may be arranged under four divisions, *namely.*

Cl. I. WATER. Spring, river, well water, &c.

Cl. II. THE JUICES AND INFUSIONS OF VEGETABLES AND ANIMALS. Whey, tea, coffee, &c.

Cl. III. FERMENTED LIQUORS. Wine, beer, &c.

Cl. IV. THE ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS, OR SPIRITS. Alcohol, brandy, rum, &c.

Before we attempt to appreciate the value of the different substances arranged under the foregoing classes, it will be necessary to caution the reader

against the popular error of regarding the terms digestible and nutritive as synonymous and convertible. A substance may be highly nutritive, and yet be digested with difficulty; that is to say, it may require all the powers of the digestive organs to convert it into chyle, and yet, when so converted, it may afford a principle of highly restorative energy: this is the case with some of the fatty and oily aliments.* On the contrary, there are substances which apparently pass out of the stomach with sufficient readiness, but afford but little comparative support to the body.

Writers on dietetics have descended very learnedly on what they please to term the *perspirability* and *alkalescency* of certain aliments. To the former I am quite unable to attach any precise meaning; with respect to the latter, I apprehend that it is intended to express a highly nutritive quality, with a certain degree of indigestibility. *Heavy* and *light*, applied to food, are terms equally vague and indefinite, and ought never to be introduced into writings which aspire to the character of philosophical precision. The same observation may be extended to the epithet *bilious*.

It is only necessary to reflect on the chemical and mechanical processes by which chymification is performed in the stomach to perceive, that the digestibility of a substance may depend on other circumstances than that of its chemical composition. Its mechanical state, regard to texture and con-

*It has been calculated, that an ounce of fat meat affords nutriment equal to four ounces of lean.

sistence, are of the highest importance ; and if we attempt to deduce any law on this subject from the known solubility of a substance out of the body, we shall fall into several fatal errors. It will be necessary to investigate this question with some attention ; for it not only explains the relative digestibility of aliments, but furnishes the only true basis for a system of skilful cookery.

The healthy stomach disposes most readily and effectually of solid food, of a certain specific degree of density, which may be termed its *digestive texture* ; if it exceeds this, it will require a greater length of time, and more active powers, to complete its chymification and if it approaches too nearly to a gelatinous condition, the stomach will be equally impeded in its operations. It is, perhaps, not possible to appreciate or express the exact degree of firmness which will confer the highest order of digestibility on food ;* indeed, this zero may vary in different individuals ; but we are taught by experience, that no meat is so digestible as tender mutton : when well conditioned, it appears to possess that degree of consistency which is most congenial to the stomach ; and in this country it is perhaps more universally used than any other animal food. Wedder mutton, or the flesh of the castrated animal, is in perfection at five years, and is by far the sweetest and most digestible. Ewe mutton is best at

two years' old. Beef appears to be not so easy of digestion ; its texture is firmer, but it is equally nutritive. Much, however, will depend on the period which has elapsed since the death of the animal, and more on the method of cookery ; in short, it would be worse than useless to attempt the construction of any scale to represent the nutritive and digestive qualities of the different species of food ; the observations here introduced are merely noticed for the sake of illustrating those general principles whose application can alone afford us any rational theory of diet.

It will not be difficult to understand why a certain texture and coherence of the aliment should confer on it digestibility, or otherwise. Its conversion into chyme is effected by the solvent power of the gastric juice, aided by the churning which it undergoes by the motions of the stomach ; and unless the substance introduced possesses a suitable degree of firmness, it will not yield to such motions ; this is the case with soups and other liquid aliments ; in such cases, therefore, nature removes the watery part before digestion can be carried forward. It is on this account that oils are digested with so much difficulty ; and it is probable that jellies, and other glutinous matters, though containing the elements of nourishment in the highest state of concentration, are not digested without considerable difficulty ; in the first place, on account of their evading the grappling powers of the stomach, and in the next, in consequence of their tenacity opposing the absorption of their more fluid parts. For these reasons I maintain, that

* Some experiments were instituted for this purpose by Gosse, of Geneva ; but the conclusions deduced from them are by no means satisfactory. He confounds solubility with digestibility, which in itself is sufficient to vitiate his reasoning.

the addition of isinglass, and other glutinous matter, to animal broths, with a view to render them more nutritive to invalids, is a pernicious custom.

The texture of animal food is greatly influenced by the age, sex, habits, condition, diet, and description of death of the animal which furnishes it. In proportion, generally, to the age, its flesh is coarser and more firm in texture, as every one must have noticed in eating birds. If the flesh of mutton and lamb, beef and veal, are compared, they will be found of a different texture, the two young meats are of a more stringy, indivisible nature than the others, which makes them harder of digestion. It has been also justly observed, that young animals differ from old ones in the distribution of the fat, which in the latter is chiefly collected in masses of layers, external to the muscles; whereas, in the former, it is more interspersed among the muscular fibres, giving the flesh a marbled appearance, which is always a desirable property of butcher's meat.—The texture of food will also vary according to the wild or domesticated state of the animal; that of the former is more dense, though highly nutritive. The sex also modifies the quality of the flesh, that of the female being always more delicate and finer grained than that of the entire male, whose fibres are denser; the influence of the genital organs on this occasion is very extraordinary; it is generally believed, that the flavor of the female is even improved by removing the ovaries, *spaying* them, as it is called. Every day the testes are permitted to remain,

even though totally inactive with regard to their proper function, injures the delicacy of the veal of the bull calf; and an animal which is not castrated till after puberty always retains much of the coarseness of the entire male. The mode of killing an animal has been considered, from the remotest ages, as capable of affecting the quality of its meat. The flesh of hunted animals is characterized by peculiar tenderness; the same effect is produced by any lingering death.—This fact probably explains the policy of those old municipal laws, which ordained that no butcher should offer or expose any bull beef for sale, unless it had previously been baited; and it is on the same principle only, that the quality of pig's flesh could be improved by the horrid cruelty of whipping them to death, as said to be practised by the Germans. The action of vinegar, administered to an animal some hours before killing it, is also known to be capable of rendering its flesh less tough. It is a common practice in the country to give a spoonful of this acid to poultry, when they are intended for the immediate service of the table.

Nothing, however, tends more effectually to meliorate the rigidity of the animal fibre, than incipient putrefaction. The length of time that meat ought to be kept after it is killed will necessarily depend on its tendency to undergo the putrid fermentation, and the prevalence of those circumstances which are inclined to favor it.

The circumstances which have been just enumerated, as being capable of influencing the tex-

ture of our food, and consequently its degree of digestibility, are, however, unimportant when compared with the modifying powers of cookery, which I shall now proceed to examine.

By cookery, alimentary substances undergo a twofold change, their principles are *chemically* modified, and their textures *mechanically* changed. The extent and nature, however, of these changes will greatly depend on the manner in which heat has been applied to them ; and if we inquire into the culinary history of different countries, we shall trace its connexion with the fuel accessible to them. This fact readily explains the prevalence of the peculiar species of cookery which distinguishes the French table, and which has no reference, as some have imagined, to the dietetic theory, or superior refinement, of the inhabitants.

BOILING. By this operation, the principles not properly soluble are rendered softer, more pulpy, and, consequently, easier of digestion ; but the meat, at the same time, is deprived of some of its nutritive properties by the removal of a portion of its soluble constituents : the albumen and gelatin are also acted on ; the former being solidified, and the latter converted into a gelatinous substance. If, therefore, our meat be boiled too long or too fast, we shall obtain, where the albumen predominates, as in beef, a hard and indigestible mass, like an overboiled egg ; or, where the gelatin predominates, as in young meats, such as veal, a gelatinous substance equally injurious to the digestive organs. Young and viscid food, therefore, as veal, chickens, &c., are more

wholesome when roasted than when boiled, and are easier digested. Dr. Prout has very justly remarked, that the boiling temperature is too high for a great many of the processes of cooking, and that a lower temperature and a greater time, or a *species of infusion*, are better adapted for most of them. This is notorious with substances intended to be *steewed*, which, even in cookery books, are directed to be *boiled slowly*, that is, not at all, and for a considerable time. The ignorance and prejudice existing on these points is very great, and combated with difficulty ; yet, when we take into account their importance, and how intimately connected with health, they will be found to deserve no small share of our attention.* The loss occasioned by boiling partly depends on the melting of the fat, but chiefly from the solution of the gelatin and osmazome ; mutton generally loses about one fifth, and beef about one fourth, of its original weight. Boiling is particularly applicable to vegetables, rendering them more soluble in the stomach, and depriving them of a considerable quantity of *air*, so injurious to weak stomachs.— But, even in this case, the operation may be carried to an injurious extent ; thus, potatoes are frequently boiled to the state of a dry, insipid powder, instead of being preserved in that state in which the parts of which they are composed are rendered soft and gelatinous, so as to retain their shape, yet be very easily separated. On the other hand,

* Hence it is, that beef tea and mutton tea are much more calculated for invalids than the broths of these meats.

the cabbage tribe, and carrots, are frequently not boiled long enough, in which state they are highly indigestible. In conducting this process, it is necessary to pay some attention to the quality of the water employed; thus, mutton boiled in hard water is more tender and juicy than when soft water is used; while vegetables, on the contrary, are rendered harder and less digestible when boiled in hard water.

ROASTING. By this process the fibrine is corrugated, the albumen coagulated, the fat liquefied, and the water evaporated. As the operation proceeds, the surface becomes first brown, and then scorched; and the tendinous parts are rendered softer and gluey. Care should always be taken that the meat should not be *overdone*, nor ought it to be *underdressed*; for though in such a state it may contain more nutriment, yet it will be less digestible, on account of the density of its texture. This fact has been satisfactorily proved by the experiments of Spallanzani;* and Mr. Hunter† observes, that "*boiled and roasted, and even putrid meat, is easier of digestion than raw.*" Animal matter loses more by roasting than by boiling; it has been stated above, that by this latter process mutton loses one fifth, and beef one fourth; but by roasting, these meats lose about one third of their weight. In roasting, the loss arises from the melting of the fat, and the evaporating of the water; but the nutritious matter remains condensed in the cooked solid; whereas, in boiling, the gelatine

is partly abstracted. Roast, are therefore, more nutritive than boiled meats.*

FRYING. This process is, perhaps, the most objectionable of all the culinary operations. The heat is applied through the medium of boiling oil, or fat, which is rendered empyreumatic, and therefore extremely liable to disagree with the stomach.

BROILING. By this operation, the sudden browning or hardening of the surface prevents the evaporation of the juices of the meat which imparts a peculiar tenderness to it. It is the form selected, as the most eligible, by those who seek to invigorate themselves by the art of *training*.

BAKING. The peculiarity of this process depends on the substance being heated in a confined space, which does not permit the escape of the fumes arising from it; the meat is, therefore, from the retention of its juices, rendered more sapid and tender. But baked meats are not so easily digested, on account of the greater retention of their oils, which are moreover, in an empyreumatic state. Such dishes accordingly require the stimulus of various condiments to increase the digestive powers of the stomach.

FUMIGATING BATHS.

We have recently had the pleasure of inspecting the fumigating baths recently established by Mr. GREEN, in Bury Street, St. James's. They are in many respects greatly superior to those hitherto established in this country, as well as to those originally con-

*Spallanzanion Digestion, vol. i. p. 277.

† Hunter on the Animal Economy p. 220,

* It has been computed that, from the dissipation of the nutritive juices by boiling, one pound of *roasted* contains as much nourishment as two of boiled meat.

structed in Paris; especially with reference to the situation of the fire, which is here upwards of five feet below the baths, whereas the usual distance does not much exceed one foot. In consequence of this improvement the bath is heated much more gradually, and the patient is enabled to remain in it for a longer period. We saw a severe case of impetigo inveterata, now under Mr. Green's care, in which the beneficial effects of the sulphureous vapor were strikingly displayed.—*Med. and Phys. Journ.*

A Treatise on Diet; with a view to establish, on practical grounds, a system of rules for the prevention and cure of Diseases incident to a diseased state of the digestive Functions. By J. M. PARIS, M.D. F.R.S. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. &c. 8vo. pp. 307. London, 1826. Underwoods.

IT was a saying of Cato the Censor, that “ ‘twere useless to preach to the belly, which has no ears.” So long as gluttony rages, and the stimulating sensualities of the table are not resented by the stomach, it were certainly an idle task; but when dyspepsy, with all its consecutive horrors, has fairly set in, the voice of reason and nature has some chance of being heard, and treatises on diet and regimen, at all times interesting to the profession, are not without their effect on patients. For this reason, such works have commonly been written in a popular style, as much as possible divested of technicalities, and suited to the capacities of general readers. Of this description is the recently published volume of Dr. Paris, in which are considered the anatomy

of the digestive apparatus, the physiology of digestion and of secretion, the *materia alimentaria*, animal and vegetable food, cookery, condiments, drinks, nuts, fruits, esculent herbs and fruits, the periods best adapted for meals, and the intervals which should elapse between them; the quantity of food that ought to be taken at different meals, imperfect chymification, imperfect digestion in the duodenum, the causes, seat, nature, and cure of indigestion, &c. &c. which it were difficult and to no good purpose to analyse. The work contains a vast fund of information and amusement, principally drawn from the best writers of the day, and is very creditable to the research and industry of the author.—*Lancet.*

From the Indiana Whig.

CURE FOR THE BITE OF A SNAKE.

As the public in the western country are much interested in knowing whatever may be a good remedy for the poison injected into the human flesh by the bite of a snake, I think it my duty to state a fact within my own knowledge. About the year 1815 or 1816, one of my children was bitten by a copperhead, on the inside of both ankles, nearly at the same instant. I instantly produced pulverized charcoal and mixed it with as much hog'slard as made it adhere. I then made a plaster of it, and applied it to the wounds, renewing the plaster every twenty or thirty minutes, for ten or twelve hours, at the same time giving the child fresh milk to drink. This remedy had the desired effect, and very little pain was endured after the first application. Not more than five minutes elapsed from the time the child was bitten till the cure was

applied, and in this short time, so violent was the action of the poison, being near a bloodvessel, that its tongue was much swollen, and green matter was vomited by the child; but the effect of the antidote was nearly as instantaneous as the poison. Several of my neighbors, in the vicinity of Newport, near Blansville, can attest to the above facts.

JAMES M'CORMICK.

DEATH OF A CHILD, ELEVEN MONTHS OLD, SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY THE MILK OF ITS MOTHER.

In April, 1821, a person at Munster quarreled with a soldier, who lodged in his house; the latter drew his sabre, and attacked his host, whose wife, terrified at the danger of her husband, rushed on his adversary, wrested the weapon from his hand, and threw it to a distance. By this time others had arrived, and the combatants were separated. The woman then, being still greatly agitated by the occurrence, took her infant, who was quite well, out of its cradle, and applied it to her breast. The child quitted the nipple with marks of inquietude, sighed, and remained lifeless in the mother's arms! Dr. TOURTUAL, of Munster, was called within a quarter of an hour, and administered all the assistance in his power, but without avail. The influence of the mother's milk on the child has long been known: the passions of nurses, in particular, are unfavorable to their infants, who are almost always affected, under such circumstances, with restlessness, colic, diarrhoea, vomiting, &c; but we are not aware of any case similar to the present, related by M. Tourtual; in which the milk would seem to have acted as a quick and powerful poison. It is to be re-

gretted that no account is given of any examination after death.—*Journal der Practischen Heilkunde, von HUFELAND, 1823.*

BEST PREPARATION OF BLACK LEAD FOR CLEANING STOVES.

Mix powder of black lead with a little common gin, or the dregs of red Port wine, and lay it on the stove with a linen rag; then with a clean, dry and close, but not hard brush, dipped in dried black lead powder, rub it to a beautiful brightness. This will be found to produce a much finer and richer black varnish on the cast iron than either boiling the black lead with small beer and soap, or mixing it with white of egg, &c. which are the methods commonly practised.—N. P. A.

DURABILITY OF CHARCOAL.

The beams of the theatre at Herculaneum were converted into charcoal by the lava which overflowed that city during an eruption of Mount Vesuvius: and during the lapse of 1700 years, the charcoal has remained as entire as if it had been buried but yesterday.

TO PREVENT THE SMOKING OF A LAMP.

Soak the wick in strong vinegar, and dry it well before you use it; it will then burn both sweet and pleasant, and give much satisfaction for the trifling trouble of preparing it.

NEWYORK HOSPITAL.

2171 persons have received the benefit of this institution, during the year 1826.—Of this number 1353 have been cured, 141 relieved, 129 discharged, 24 eloped or discharged as disorderly, 209 died, and 305 remained December 31, 1826.

CRITICISM.

A just criticism is more welcome to a true philosopher, than the highest seasoned praise; the former promotes truth, the latter prejudices it.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1827.

THE PRESERVATION OF THE TEETH.

It is the concern of each individual to cherish and improve his own physical system,—as it is the province of the physician to repair and restore this system whenever it is injured by accident, or impaired by disease. These respective offices, though they often more or less run into each other, are in other instances quite distinct,—as in the management of the teeth. The possessor has merely to keep his teeth clean, this being all that is requisite for their preservation; the dentist must do the rest.

This keeping the teeth free from impurities, is indispensable to their soundness and good appearance. To suffer the particles of food and other offending materials, which are constantly collecting about them, to remain, is to favor the production and activity of those causes which effect their ruin. Whatever, therefore, is best suited to keep these instruments clean, is also best suited to prevent their discoloration and decay. Whoever has been accustomed to the luxury of a clean mouth and teeth, feels the want of this refreshment as strongly, and enjoys it as highly, as a bather does a pure skin.

We every day meet with reputable people who mean to be neat, and who have the satisfaction of imagining they are so,—and yet they neither bathe the skin nor rinse the mouth! Their standard of physical purity must be very low, for how

can neatness consist with a neglected surface and mouth? Some young persons, who are pleasing and estimable in other respects, seem to have no idea of the unpleasant effect which the sordid state of their teeth must have on their acquaintance and associates. To see the bloom and freshness of youth, in connexion with yellow and covered teeth, and an offensive breath, arising altogether from a total neglect of the mouth, is grossly incongruous, if not disgusting. Common sense, on the contrary, with good manners, and a proper attention to personal cleanliness, makes one current and acceptable everywhere.

The teeth cannot be kept clean without dentifrice and a toothbrush. Mr. Charles Barrell, near the Old South Church, sells a toothpowder which answers all the good purposes which the best dentifrice can accomplish, and is wholly free from any of those deleterious qualities which are too common in most articles of this sort. With the aid of this toothpowder, a stiff brush and water, the writer of this article has preserved his teeth free from pain or defect, though they are more than fifty years old; not one of the entire set refuses to perform well every duty assigned it.

TOOTH BRUSHES.

The brush with which this powder is to be applied, should be sufficiently large and firm, and the hairs not too closely placed. One reason for preferring hard brushes, is, that they become softer by use, and another is, that if not pretty stiff, they are not firm enough to clean the teeth thoroughly.

They are never too hard, unless they are so unyielding as to insinuate themselves between the teeth and gums, so as to separate them; this being guarded against, the stiffer they are the better.

Having provided ourselves with the Toothpowder and brush, the next inquiry is, how are they to be used?

The mouth should be rinsed with cold water, and the brush dipped into it before the powder is used. A quantity of the powder should then be taken up on the end of the brush, and applied to every part of each tooth, not only to the anterior surface of the front teeth, but the brush, covered with the dentifrice, should be successively applied to the inner surface of the upper and lower teeth, and also to their ends.

The last motions of the brush should be carried downward from the gums to the ends of the teeth, in the direction of their length. This serves to elongate the gum, and to spread its points more elegantly over the enamel.

The best time for using the Toothpowder, is after breakfast; and this should be done once every day. In addition to this, we should be careful to cleanse the mouth with the brush and water, or to rinse it with water merely, after every meal; and this should be particularly attended to before going to rest, otherwise the foulness which is too often permitted to accumulate through the whole day, cannot be prevented from committing its ravages during the night.

The same grateful and refreshing sensations which result from bathing the surface of the body, as we have already remarked, arise also from a proper attention to the mouth. No one who neglects the latter, can be said to be personally neat; nor can any one who omits this necessary attention to himself, to the annoyance of others, justly expect any *voluntary, unbought* attention from them.

A foreigner, who had been at work about two weeks in Watertown N. Y. procured the value of *one shilling* in whiskey, all of which he made use of at one dram. He lived about one hour after taking his dram, when he expired.

DICTIONARY.

Chlorosis, the green sickness; its symptoms are heaviness, listlessness, fatigue on the least motion, &c.

Chorea, St. Vitus's dance.

Emunctory, from *emungo*, to drain off. The excretory ducts are so termed; thus the exhaling arteries of the skin constitute the great emunctory of the body.

Hydrocephalus, a collection of water, or dropsy of the head.

Lacteals, the absorbents which originate in the small intestines, and convey the chyle to the thoracic duct, which is the common trunk of these absorbing vessels. This trunk of the absorbents pours its contents into a vein near the left clavicle, soon after which the chyle passes through the lungs and becomes blood.

Mesentery, a membrane which connects the intestines and holds them together. Its glands are called *mesenteric*.

Osmazome. The flesh of beef, and some other parts of animals, afford a peculiar substance of an aromatic flavor, called by *Thenard*, osmazome, from two Greek words signifying *odor* and *broth*.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

DR. HULL'S TRUSS.

THE very great superiority of this instrument over every other heretofore invented, as to convenience, ease, and comfort to the wearer, and its curative power, is shown by the testimony of respectable physicians, and the formal approbation of Medical Societies, but more than all by the actual cures it has performed. For a more particular description of this Truss, see the last Edition, 1826, of Thacher's Modern Practice.

Ebenezer Wight, Apothecary, Milk Street, opposite Federal Street, has just received an assortment of Umbilical and Inguinal Trusses.

March 6th.

THE STUDY OF MEDICINE. By John Mason Good. In five volumes. Fourth American Edition. Reprinted from the last London edition. Greatly improved and enlarged. Lately published, and for sale by Wells & Lilly.

A NEW EDITION OF
THACHER'S MILITARY
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AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

COTTONS & BARNARD have in the press, and will publish in a few days, A MILITARY JOURNAL DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR, from 1775 to 1783; describing interesting events and Transactions of this period; with numerous Historical Facts and Anecdotes, from the Original Manuscript. To which is added an Appendix, containing Biographical Sketches, of several General Officers. By JAMES THACHER, M. D. late Surgeon in the American Army. Second Edition, Revised and Corrected.

"As Americans we hail with delight any attempt to rescue from oblivion the words or actions of those whose names we have been taught to revere."

March 27.

MEDICAL LECTURES IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

THE Medical Lectures in Harvard University will begin at the Medi-

cal College, Mason Street, Boston, on the THIRD WEDNESDAY IN OCTOBER NEXT; the time having been altered from the Third Wednesday in November, at which time they formerly commenced.

WALTER CHANNING,
Dean of the Medical Faculty.

Summer Course of Midwifery Lectures.

Dr. Channing's Summer Course of Lectures in Midwifery will begin on the first Wednesday in June next. For Terms, apply to Dr. C. at his house in Common Street.

A VAPOR or SULPHUR BATH can be had at any proper hour of the day, at 3, Central Court. The proper hours are before breakfast, dinner, and tea. The best time is between 11 and 2 o'clock.

A portable bath may be taken to the patient's house, if ordered by the attending physician, and administered under his direction.

THE two first of the following works were translated from the French, and the others written, by the Editor, and are for sale at this Office.

BRERA on Worms.

BICHAT on the Membranes.

Discourses on Warm and Cold Bathing.

A Dissertation on Medical Education, and on the Medical Profession.

Remarks on the Dangers and Duties of Sepulture.

ATHENEUM:
OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.

FOR APRIL 1, 1827,

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THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M.D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1827.

NO. 47.

A CASE OF PARTIAL PARALYSIS, PRODUCED BY EXTRACTING A TOOTH.

By EDWARD PICKETT, M.D. of Huntsville, Alabama.

The physiology of the nervous system is at present attracting so much attention, in every portion of the globe where medicine is cultivated, that every fact, having any bearing on this interesting subject, is worthy of record. The following case being somewhat peculiar in its character, the writer is induced to offer it to the medical public, hoping it will not prove entirely unacceptable to those who have more ability for physiological and pathological investigation, than himself.

Mr. L. Ingraham, a young laboring man, about 24 years of age, on the 14th of last May, had the second molar tooth on the *left* side of the inferior maxilla, drawn by a neighbor, who drew, with it, the first and third grinders; so that instead of extracting one tooth, he separated three: the first and second were drawn entirely out, and the third was retained only by its attachment to the surrounding gum. On the 5th of June, I was called to see him; when I was informed that, after his teeth were drawn, he went home to his usual labor, at which he continued for a week, during which he complained of being unwell, and occasionally of impaired

vision. At the expiration of the week, he walked a few miles to an uncle's, where he was immediately confined to bed. Soon after his confinement, he was bled to the amount of 16 ounces, and purged with calomel; but as he continued to grow worse, a physician was called in, who prescribed calomel in small doses, and laudanum, to allay a very severe pain in the stomach, of which he frequently complained. This, with a blister to the nape of the neck, constituted the treatment before I saw him. I found him very feeble and emaciated, free from pain—skin moist—pulse soft, small, and about 90 in a minute—gums red and swollen, but no mercurial fetor in the breath—several dark ulcers in the roof of his mouth,—tongue white and dry—and when he attempted to thrust it out, it was thrown into the *left* angle of the mouth, which was much drawn down by its depressor muscle: he could not possibly extend his tongue beyond his lips, nor pass it to the right side of his mouth. His speech was greatly impaired, and some sentences were almost entirely unintelligible. The cavity from which the first and second teeth had been taken, was filled with a large fleshy excrescence, which projected some distance above the surface of the teeth, so that he could not close his jaws, or mas-

ticate, without pain. The third tooth had been permitted to remain in its socket, though, apparently, from its extreme looseness, entirely freed from its long connexion, and held only by the gum. I immediately drew it; which he said relieved him much. The excrescence was completely cicatrized, and appeared to possess but little sensibility; as it might be explored with the finger, and moderately pressed, without any other sensation than that of "soreness." It had been lanced two or three days before my visit, and I was told that a small quantity of pus had escaped. On the right side of the lower jaw, and external to the teeth, was an enlargement of the gum, resembling a common phlegmon, though solid, and possessed of but little sensibility. On its surface were two small excoriations, from which a bloody serum issued on pressure. He complained of "dulness" and "deadness" on the right side of the face, particularly about the angle of the mouth, and on the same side, the depressor and elevator anguli oris seemed to be completely paralytic. Previously to my seeing him, he had suffered much from paroxysms of pain in the region of the stomach; which would pass very suddenly to the gastrocnemii muscles, or the brain. For a short time before I saw him, the latter had been exempt from these paroxysmal fits, which passed alternately from the stomach to the legs. During one of these attacks, which took place about an hour after my arrival, I examined the abdomen, and found the recti abdominis so firmly contracted over the region of the stomach, and the space extending to

the umbilicus, as to appear almost as solid as a board. These attacks came on at all times; but most frequently in the early part of the day and at night. They were tolerably manageable with laudanum and tincture of camphor; which would sometimes relieve them almost as soon as swallowed, or cause them to pass directly from his abdomen to his legs. He said his "appetite was good," and that his hearing was defective, though he appears to hear distinctly. His bowels were torpid, and he was perfectly rational.

Treatment.—I gave him laudanum and tincture of camphor, to relieve his spasm; and castor oil, salts, and enemata, all of which proved necessary to move his bowels. At one o'clock in the morning of the 6th, I was roused to see him again in a very distressing paroxysm. Gave him about one drachm of tincture of opium, and the same quantity of tincture of camphor; which mitigated his sufferings; but they still continued till his bowels were opened with injections. The purgatives brought away many hard feculent lumps, not much unlike the scybala discharged in dysentery. His discharges had previously been dark colored, but this morning had almost a natural appearance, though still rather dark. Pulse about 90—mouth and tongue dry—the edges of the latter clean, but the centre and back part covered with a brown fur—a slight brown incrustation on some of his teeth—breath offensive—free from pain. His head was shaved, and a large blister applied to the scalp. Prescribed a stimulating gargle of carbonate of ammonia, and weak

grog; laxatives and anodynes to be continued as circumstances may require; a light nourishing diet, with the use of wine or toddy occasionally. Instructions were given to reapply the blister to the scalp, after its first drawing, should the patient survive. I find that, in my notes made before I left the patient, I omitted one circumstance, of which, however, I have a distinct recollection; that is, his left eye had become inflamed about the time the paralysis occurred, but was better when I saw him than it had been, though still inflamed.

I left him about 10 o'clock of the 6th; and he died on the night of the 7th; but, as he was sixteen miles from town, I had no opportunity of making any examination after death.

In this case, I was inclined to believe that, in extracting the teeth, some serious injury must have been done to that portion of the third branch of the fifth pair of nerves, which is distributed to the lower jaw and teeth. The inflammation of the eye, perhaps was the result of the impaired function in the first branch of the fifth pair, which goes to this organ: the paralysis of the right side of the tongue must have been owing to a loss of function in that portion of the fifth pair distributed to the tongue, or in the right branch of the ninth pair; the paralysis of the muscles on the right side of the face, to the loss of function in a portion of the portio dura of the seventh pair—all referrible to the original injury done to the third branch of the fifth pair.

We apprehend that, in this case, an irritation was propagated through the branches of the fifth

pair in the left side, and that certain nerves of the opposite side were affected with *paralysis*. We do not see, in the narrative of the case, sufficient evidence to establish the point, which nerves were paralyzed; but we should be most inclined to conclude, from the *generality* of the expression of "deadness" and "dullness" on the right side, that it was the branches of the fifth. Dr. PICKETT has not informed us whether the motions of the nostrils connected with respiration were deranged; by which we could have judged, according to the observation of Mr. CHARLES BELL, whether the portio dura was paralyzed.—*North American Med. and Surg. Journal.*

The patient in this case probably lost his life by calling on an incompetent person to extract his tooth. This instance of suffering and death deserves to be recorded for the instruction and admonition of those who imagine that any body can draw a tooth or let blood. This however is so far from being true, that many instances have occurred where both these operations, unskillfully performed, have terminated like the case before us.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

MR. EDITOR,—In continuation of those hints for the guidance of parents, and which appeared in another journal, I will now with your leave, and in your columns, again solicit their attention to that much neglected department of parental duty, the regular and systematic use of means for improving the health of children. There is nothing, perhaps, in

which vague and false notions have so extensive an influence, at the expense of human happiness, as the kind and degree of care which parents, and particularly mothers, ought to take in regard to regimen. Some mothers pride themselves on their entire freedom from all nervous anxiety or niceness on this point. Nature, they say, has made provision for juvenile happiness in this respect. I give myself no uneasiness about my children, says such a mother; I let them do just as they are disposed. I let them eat whenever they choose, and whatever they like, and as much as they want, and play about, or sit still, be within doors or without, just as their notion is. If people would let their children alone, and let nature take its own course, there would not be half the sickness and whining there is in some houses.

Mothers of a different cast of feeling, take a very different course. They busy themselves day and night in devising means for venting an excessive and over anxious care. They neither allow themselves nor others a moment's peace; but are worried by a whole train of apprehensions, lest the weather should be too cold for walking, or the dear child should not have been sufficiently loaded with clothes, or the fire should be too low, or a draft of air should be perceptible, or breakfast should not be nice enough or warm enough. In short, they are haunted by all the forms of self tormenting ingenuity, which their excited imaginations can conjure up. And the poor child who is the unfortunate victim of such care,—what becomes of it? Nothing short of a miracle interposed could give it op-

portunity for one hour's native cheerfulness, amidst an atmosphere so troubled and darkened with care.

But there are mothers of a very different disposition,—those who think there is nothing like making children hardy at all hazards. Their children must undergo more unwelcome immersions in cold water, than ever did the furniture of the most scrupulous and strict of the Jews with all their divers washings. Next comes Franklin's memorable air bath, though the thermometer should be at zero;—then, by way of hardening the body, only half an allowance of clothing,—and by way of strengthening the stomach, a cold breakfast. If the child, as might be expected, has caught cold and become sick on this preventive discipline, it has slept too warm, it has been overheated. At all events, it wants air and exercise; and out it must go. If a winter wind is raging, it is, in the estimation of such parents, nothing more than pure bracing air.

The management of all these three classes of mothers is occasionally successful, and especially where nature has been so bountiful, that the most perverted ingenuity can neither exhaust nor break the constitution of the infant. As in some cases we do observe an almost preternatural force of health, which seems intended to endow its possessor with ability to bear and to do in human life at a tenfold rate. But much oftener we may observe the unsuitableness of all the methods that have been mentioned. We may see the misguided mother, who imagined that the health of her child would flourish but by neglect, lamenting the unguarded

exposure which has laid the foundation for a fatal disease. We may see the over anxious attention of other parents debilitating the body, and, like the deleterious operation of a slow poison, silently but surely destroying the health and the life of their offspring. In cities, particularly, where an excessively hardy training cannot be aided by much hard exercise, the system of unqualified exposure is more likely to sow the seeds of consumption, than to give a lasting vigor to the health.

But none of all these different forms of mismanagement can occasion surprise to any one who has attended to the vast accumulation of difficulties under which most parents lie in regard to this matter,—to the great number of cases in which there is a want of time, and opportunity, and requisite means, and, above all, a want of knowledge regarding the corporeal frame itself. Of all the serious defects of female education, none is more injurious to society, than that neglect by which they are left unprovided with the information which is most needed in their most important duties.

T. D.

SUBMERSION.

At the sitting of the Royal Academy of Medicine at Paris, on the 26th of September last, M. Bourgeois de St. Denis read an account of a case of asphyxia by submersion. This physician, in the month of July last, going over one of the bridges, observed some persons carrying a man just taken out of the water to the bureau, where aid is afforded to the drowned; those who carried the drowned person, kept his feet

high and head low, and were inflicting hard blows over the chest, loins, and posteriors, with the palms of their hands. M. Bourgeois proceeded instantly to the bureau, directed the person to be placed in the horizontal posture, and began to administer assistance himself, though the man did not show any signs of life, and had been under water for the space of twenty minutes. The means used to recall life, consisted in dry frictions of the whole body, moderated inflation of air into the mouth and lungs, tickling of the sole of the foot, and hypochondria, excitement of the nostrils by the smell of liquid ammonia, injections up the rectum of warm water, with some salt in it, and then into one of the veins of the left arm. The vein, on being opened, did not at first furnish any blood. Every effort appeared for a while fruitless; when, after the lapse of an hour, the flow of blood from the opened vein showed that the circulation began to reestablish itself. A ligature was immediately placed on the arm, and, in a few minutes, ten ounces of blood were obtained. From this time the circulation and respiration returned, the chest evidently showing that the latter function was restored. But just at the moment when the symptoms of asphyxia were disappearing, and restoration to life becoming more and more evident, an attack of the most horrible convulsions and tetanus threatened the destruction of the individual. Sixteen ounces of blood were immediately drawn, and notwithstanding every effort to arrest the flow of blood, it continued to run till this convulsive state was followed by syncope, and afterwards profound coma,

which lasted for twelve hours. The person was taken to the Charite, and with one bleeding more was perfectly restored. On the following day the patient was quite well.

M. Bourgeois presented this fact as a fresh instance of the efficacy of the trial of means after submersion of a considerable time, and when the drowned person was apparently beyond the possibility of recovery. From this fact, M. Bourgeois concludes, that hopes of restoration should not be abandoned till the decomposition of the body has commenced. Among the best restorative means, he considers the cautious inflation of air into the lungs, and the abstraction of blood, the air being breathed by the mouth of some person into the lungs. M. Bourgeois considers the warm air particularly suited to the lungs under this state, and that its warmth compensates for its impurity.*—*Archives Generales.*

INFLATION OF AIR INTO THE LUNGS.—ASPHYXIA.

M. Leroy d'Etoiles, of Paris, has lately been trying some experiments to show, that though inflation of air into the lungs after submersion is one of the best means of restoring life, still that if it be not managed with great caution, restoration of life may be prevented by the very means used. Air was blown with considerable force into the lungs of

some animals through a canula, inserted into an opening made in the trachea, and after one strong inflation only, the chest and abdomen became distended, as if the animal had made a deep inspiration. Among seven sheep on which the experiment was tried, four died in three minutes, and three in fifteen minutes afterwards. The third mode in which these animals perish, is by asphyxia. The phenomena which accompany the death of the animals, into the lungs of which air has been inflated, are exactly the same as those observed in complete obstruction of the trachea. In both cases there is always a great agitation, restlessness, sometimes convulsive movements, always violent and ineffectual efforts at respiration, and at last, cessation of all motion and of the circulation, after the lapse from three to five minutes. If the carotid artery of an animal, of which the trachea has been closed, is exposed, as was done by Bichat, the blood will be seen gradually to lose its color, and diminish in quantity; it being necessary for the venous blood to traverse the lungs in order to become arterial, and this in asphyxia being prevented by the state of the lungs. The lungs of the animals presented appearances similar to those observed after inflammation, but the first effects superinduced by the powerful inflation of the air are not satisfactorily explained.

* We recollect,—says the Editor of the London Lancet,—that a few years ago, Dr. D. D. Davis, of this town, recommended the same therapeutic agent, the breath from the mouth direct, for the same purpose, and that he proposed it to the Humane Society as a means which ought not to be neglected. The above case confirms Dr. Davis's views.

NATIVE COFFEE.

It has long been a desideratum what would make a substitute for coffee, and many experiments have been made with a view to discover a substitute. The question is at length solved, and a na-

tive material for coffee has been found which, when prepared cannot be distinguished from *Mocha* of the first quality. The following receipt for making it, it is hoped will be extracted, and the experiment tried by those who are interested or curious on the subject:—Shell the common chesnut, roast and grind it as you do coffee grains,—mix some succory or chicory with the chesnut powder, as is commonly done with coffee, and in the same proportion, and you will find it so palatable and pleasant that you will never again feel disposed to purchase foreign coffee.—*Maryland paper.*

*A System of Anatomical Plates,
with Descriptive Letter press.*

By JOHN LIZARS, F. R. S. E.,
Fellow of the Royal College
of Surgeons, and Lecturer on
Anatomy and Surgery, Edin-
burgh. Folio. Part XII.—
Lizars, Edinburgh, and High-
ley, London.

THE present fasciculus, containing three engravings of the gravid uterus, and four of the lymphatics, concludes the valuable system of anatomical plates which Mr. Lizars commenced about three years ago, and of which, from time to time, as the parts have appeared we have had occasion to speak in favorable terms. This concluding part fully sustains or rather adds to the deserved reputation of its author; and now that the series is completed, we can most confidently recommend it to the notice of the practitioner, the student, and the man of letters. The work in its complete form is dedicated, by permission, to his Majesty; and Mr. Lizars has very properly taken the opportunity so graciously

afforded him, of laying at the foot of the throne a national grievance, of the greatest weight and importance. In allusion to the scarcity of subjects for dissection, Mr. Lizars thus addresses the Sovereign:—

“SIRE,—You will graciously permit me to assign a very imperative reason for presuming to solicit the notice of your Majesty.—I am emboldened, by the highest of all obligations, to avail myself of the appearance of this work, to suggest the necessity for speedily adopting some measures in behalf of the science, to the advancement of which it is conscientiously devoted. It is impossible for me, or for any other teacher in this department of professional education, not to regret, most painfully, that, through the increase of certain prejudices, as illiberal as they are alien to true philanthropy, obstacles are daily arising in your Majesty’s United Kingdoms to the prosecution of anatomy. It is equally impossible not to believe, what ample observations demonstrate, that the magnitude to which they have already attained, is, in its infallible and invincible operation, signally and seriously injurious to your Majesty’s subjects, both in the public service and in all the ranks of private society. Many more of these than unsuspecting benevolence could have imagined, are doomed, it were easy to prove, to a premature grave, by the consequent deficiency in this requisite science on the part of those to whom the care of life and health is committed; and I will state, most respectfully to your Majesty, in evidence of this alarming truth, well known and universally deplored as it is in the

schools of medical learning, one circumstance of political importance enough, independently of humane considerations, to justify the freedom which I thus assume.

"In France, in Germany, and in Denmark, the prosecution of anatomy is protected by their respective governments; and, in them, every facility is afforded for its complete and satisfactory study. Hence, in great degree it is, that, of late years, such of the medical youth among your Majesty's subjects as are enabled by their circumstances, proceed to those foreign kingdoms in search of information of the most valuable kind,—being compelled thereto by the dread of entering on the practice of their profession while ignorant of some of its fundamental principles; and of having, through the unavoidable fault of a merely British education, to collect, by repeated failures in their treatment of the living, that knowledge which they might have early and safely and ably acquired from intimacy with the dead.

"SIRE,—I cannot doubt that your Majesty, impressed with a sense of the awful responsibility and agonising duties of medical men, will be most graciously pleased to recommend the subject of their effective and thorough instruction, in this important particular, to the serious attention of your Majesty's wise and liberal Ministers, with a view to the accomplishment of what science points out as a desirable, and what the calamities of mankind decide to be necessary."

We trust Parliament will diligently and impartially consider the matter; and as, undoubtedly, there is sufficient weight in these considerations, which have been

so often urged, to sway any reasonable body of men, so we trust they will not suffer themselves to be biassed by prejudice or public clamor to delay a boon which they have both the power and the means of granting, and which seriously concerns every man in the kingdom who values the national honor, or the lives of his fellow creatures and subjects. When the College question shall be agitated in the ensuing Parliament, we would fain hope that this analogous and sore obstacle to the progress of anatomical knowledge will also be removed.—*Lancet.*

LETTER FROM A PHYSICIAN TRAVELLING IN ITALY.

The Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal for October contains extracts from a letter of a physician travelling in Italy. We extract the following.

"The Roman physicians occupy themselves but little with the doctrines of the north of Italy. HIPPOCRATES and the older authors are still their favorite masters, and some of the medical men are very deeply read in them. Some of the professors set a bright example of industry to their pupils, but I cannot say that there appeared to be much enthusiasm prevailing among the latter. The clinical lectures are delivered *extempore* in a room adjoining the ward. At the University, the professors sometimes lecture in Latin, at others in Italian; but the hour is rather curiously disposed of. It is begun and closed by a hasty prayer, and the intermediate space is about equally divided between a Latin dictation, which the pupils transcribe verbatim, and the *extempore* lecture. Some of the hospitals are very

large; this is particularly the case with the Santo Spirito; but though there are wards capable of holding more than two or three hundred each, absolutely unoccupied, there are others so crowded as to have three and four rows deep of beds on each side. This is said to be done for economy. The windows are high, and the part which opens small; the wards are consequently badly ventilated. There are admirable conveniences for dissection, and very good anatomical theatres; but these advantages seem to be rather neglected. The most striking and numerous preparations in their anatomical collections are monsters and aneurisms, which, for the credit of the Roman surgeons, appear to have been treated by the old method of amputation, and the nervous and vascular systems, laboriously but uselessly detached from the other textures. The hospital which, by its construction and neatness, pleased me most, is devoted to diseases of the skin. The house patients are all from the neighboring country, the Romans being only admitted as outpatients. The greater number of inmates are children affected with tinea capitis. They are set to work, and paid their earnings on leaving the establishment. The mode of treatment is remarkable. The hairs are plucked out by the roots, by means of pliers resembling blunt bellhangers' pincers. The children mutually perform this operation for each other, and it requires to be often repeated. When the hairs are removed, the little patients come under the hands of a priest; who, with a razor which he hones afresh for every individual, makes slight incisions all over the scalp,

which is suffered to bleed for a considerable time. A simple ointment is then applied to the head, which is habitually covered with a bladder. There are merely simple warm and cold baths in the hospital. The lunatic asylum is only a place of confinement, as no means are made use of to promote a cure. At Rome, I met with but few new medical works. I may mention a short but interesting pamphlet on hydrophobia. The author, who formerly lived at Tivoli, but now resides at Rome, seems nearly to have demonstrated that this most distressing affection is only communicable by the animal in which its origin was spontaneous; and that bites inflicted by those who receive the disease from him are quite harmless. The author ascribes the disease to the venereal appetite, provoked but not gratified.

SULPHUR AS A PRESERVATIVE AGAINST MEASLES.

During the winter of 1817, the measles prevailed epidemically at Munster, at which time M. Tourtual had occasion to remark that the children affected with itch, and who were using sulphur externally and internally, were exempt from the epidemic. He attributed this circumstance to the presence of another cutaneous disease, and gave it all the merit of the prophylactic virtue. In 1822, a fresh epidemic of measles occurred again, and the disease was preceded for many days by a convulsive cough. For this symptom M. Tourtual prescribed a mixture of flowers of sulphur and white sugar, of which the children took half a teaspoonful,—more or less according to their age. Many trials were made on children of dif-

ferent families and different ages, and *all* who took the remedy in time escaped the disease.

The effects of putrid matters, when applied to the living body under different modifications, formed the subject of an interesting essay by Dr. GASPARD, in the second volume of the Journal of Physiology.—Similar experiments, and with similar results, have more lately been performed by M. MAJENDIE, who succeeded in producing, within a few hours, various maladies similar to those resulting in man from exposure to putrid exhalations. Vomiting, for example, and black stools, were produced by the introduction of putrid injections into the sanguiferous system. In pursuing these inquiries, Majendie found that different kinds of flesh acted with different degrees of power during their putrescent state; thus, the muscular fibre of herbivorous, appeared much less active than that of carnivorous animals; but, of all substances, the most deleterious was water containing putrid fish,—some drops of this producing, within an hour, symptoms having a great analogy to those of typhous or yellow fever. Death generally took place in twentyfour hours; and, on opening the body, all the traces were found of the blood having undergone a chemical change, as it remained in great part fluid, and had transuded, in an unwonted degree, through the different textures, particularly the mucous membrane of the intestinal canal. It is remarkable, though not at variance with the analogy of other poisons, that the same putrid water received into the stomach was entirely harmless; a result which Majendie attributes to the mucus of the parts acting as a filter, preventing the

passage of the more solid part of the putrid matter; by filtering the water through paper, much of its virulence was lost. Another form of the experiment consisted in exposing animals to the action of putrid effluvia; some suffered no apparent injury, while others, as dogs, became rapidly emaciated, and died at different periods within twenty days. The prosecution of these experiments may possibly throw some light on points of pathology at present involved in utter darkness.

MEDICAL PROFESSION IN LONDON AND PARIS.

In the London Med. and Phys. Journal for Oct. 1826, it is stated, that the number of physicians, *that is*, fellows of the Royal College, licentiates, &c., who practise in London and seven miles round, amounts to 174. The whole population amounts to 1,200,000—one physician for every 7000 souls.

Upwards of 800 members of the Royal College of Surgeons practise in the same capital; and as by the law, all medical officers, whether of the army, navy, or East India Company, are entitled to practise as surgeons and apothecaries in every part of the British dominions, many of them, say 200, may be added to the list of surgeons; making a total of 1000 practising surgeons, or one to every 1200 inhabitants.

The whole number of apothecaries entitled from various sources to practise as such, probably equals 2000, or one apothecary for every 600 inhabitants.

Thus, in London, the physicians are to the surgeons as one to six, to the apothecaries as one to twelve, and to both united as one to eighteen.

In Paris, there were in 1822, 600 physicians; being, on a population of 800,000, one physician to every 1,333 inhabitants, or five times more than in London.

In the same year there were in Paris 128 surgeons, being one to 6250 inhabitants, or fourfifths less than in London.

Taking the three branches of the medical profession in Paris, and supposing the distribution of them in that capital to be the proper standard—namely, 600 physicians, 128 surgeons, and 181 apothecaries, they are together about 900, or at the rate of one to every 900 inhabitants; whilst in London, if the computation of 174 physicians, 1000 surgeons, 2000 apothecaries, and 300 chemists and druggists, be correct, the total number is 3474, or at the rate of one to every 345 inhabitants. In Paris, then, under a due distribution of the three branches, the expense of maintaining each individual engaged in the profession, is divided among 900 persons, whilst in London it is shared among 345; the actual expense to each inhabitant of the latter, being nearly treble the expense to each inhabitant of the former city. It is supposed that in Philadelphia there are about 200 physicians, surgeons, and obstetrical practitioners, which, in a population of 150,000, will give one for every 750 inhabitants.

CROTON OIL.

Mr. Morson, a scientific chemist of London, has lately recommended to the attention of the faculty, a soap made with croton, which he contends, in consequence of being more soluble in the stomach, operates more gently and more efficaciously than the oil,

and this too without disordering the stomach. In an early number of our work, we have given a copy of a prescription of Dr. Coley's, of Cheltenham, of croton oil, with castile soap, a composition, which is as soluble in the stomach as a soap made only with croton oil and pure potass. The following is an excellent formula for the exhibition of croton oil with soap.—Take of croton oil, six drops; castile soap, one scruple; pure potass, six drops; oil of caraway seeds, six drops. Mix, and with a sufficient quantity of liquorice powder form into pills, of which one, two or three may be taken for a dose in cases of obstinate constipation. The peculiar pungent acrid quality of the croton oil, compared with that of castor oil, being imparted by the cortical part of the seeds; the oil is now prepared in the same manner as expressed castor oil, by previously decorticating the seeds. Though the oil is thus rendered comparatively mild to the palate, the purgative quality is not thereby diminished.—*Gaz. of Health.*

EPILEPSY CURED BY TARTAR EMETIC OINTMENT.

M. Peyson, whose name has lately often appeared in the French medical periodicals, as the discoverer of the antiperiodical virtues of tartar emetic, has published in the August number of Broussais's *Annales*, an interesting case of epilepsy cured by means of tartar emetic ointment.

The patient fell from a height of thirty feet—he did not injure himself much, but was considerably alarmed. Three weeks after this accident, he was affected with ophthalmia, and next with violent cephalgia, which return-

ed every other day, accompanied with convulsive movements of the muscles of the face and eyes, and a haggard expression of countenance. By the physician who first saw him, he was treated by means of antiphlogistics ; which, however, were productive of very little benefit. At the expiration of ten days, he was seized with all the symptoms of epilepsy. These returned several times a day ; and were combated by means of antiphlogistics, anthelmintics, sedatives, antispasmodics, and cinchona,---and finally, the usual antiepileptical remedies were resorted to ; but all without any other effect than that of rendering the attacks less violent and frequent, and of shorter duration. At the end of two months from the first attack, his functions, particularly those of the brain, had become much altered ; his mind having lost its usual energy. His voluntary muscles were now deprived of all power of contraction. He complained much, when questioned, of pain in the head and stomach. His urine was voided with great difficulty, and his constipation could only be obviated by means of injections.

Under these unpromising circumstances, M. Peysson was called in, and prescribed frictions with tartar emetic ointment, to the internal surface of the thighs, legs, &c. Four days after his first visit, Mr. P. found the patient much improved, out of bed, walking with the aid of a stick, and answering better to questions put to him. His epileptic attacks had nearly disappeared ; and were succeeded only by slight chills, which returned every evening.

The frictions were continued at intervals for one month ; four

ounces of the ointment were used, and a complete cure was effected, *without the appearance of a single pustule*. This seems to us the most extraordinary feature of the case ; for in all trials that have hitherto been made with the ointment of tartarized antimony in epilepsy and other diseases, the cutaneous irritation and the subsequent suppuration appear to have been essential to the cure. Such at least seems to be the inference that should be drawn from the cases published by Dr. Carter, as well as from the case published by Dr. Angelot, and to which Mr. P. refers. But we believe that Mr. P. is inclined to attribute rather too great an influence to the tartar emetic in this and other cases he has published ; the relief appears really to have been here surprisingly rapid ; and perhaps, on mature reflection, it will be suspected, that the patient was just about getting well when the ointment was used.

In a memoir presented to the Academy of Medicine of Paris, an account of a report on which, by M. Louyer Villermay, is contained in the *Revue Medicale* for August, 1826, M. Peysson has related three more cures of epilepsy, and by the same remedy. He appears to claim the credit of originality respecting the benefit of the external application of tartar emetic, a claim which appears to be fully conceded to him by the reporter. In answer to this, however, it will be sufficient to refer them to the British medical periodicals of the last few years.—*N. Amer. Med. and Surg. Journ.*

During the past year, the medical public have lost some of its brightest ornaments. Barclay,

Vacca Berlinghieri, Scarpa, and Laennec; and we have now to add to the sad catalogue of mortality, the names of MASON GOOD, and CLINE. Mr. Cline was a practical man, and, by his example, added at least to the respectability of surgery, though probably he did little more than tread in the trammels of his predecessors, and latterly lent himself to the abominable chicanery of the College.—Though long and deservedly known to the literary world, Dr. Mason Good, till the publication of his Nosology, about ten years ago, was hardly known to physicians, and his medical reputation was not built up by degrees, but seemed rather to start into mature existence at once. The "Study of Medicine," the most comprehensive work of the kind that ever appeared in our language, whether we regard it as a work of labor or of genius, will glide down the current of time, and perpetuate his memory. On this work, we apprehend, his reputation must ultimately rest; for while his other labors, principally translations, may be looked on as exercises, this could only be accomplished by much perseverance, industry, fatigue, and toil. He trod, perhaps, a little in the footsteps of Le Clerc and Freind, and mingling with the learned of past ages, was not always mindful of his contemporaries. But this was a venial fault, since he need not revive what had never been forgotten, or swell the volumes of his work with what was trite and common. Though Dr. Good was a Graduate of an English University, and aided the composition of the celebrated Oration of Sir Henry Halford, he was placed among the *permissi* of

the College, having been at one period of his life a general practitioner. Dr. Good's literary labors induced frequent attacks of gout, and, ultimately, his death of a nephritic complaint, on the 2d of January, 1827, in the 63d year of his age. We have heard that his posthumous works will be edited by Dr. Olinthus Gregory, of Woolwich, who was associated with him in the compilation of a work called *Pantologia*.—*Lancet*.

CAMPHORATED LOZENGES OF IPECACUAN.

Dr. Laennec and Dr. Muller recommend to those who are subject to asthma, winter cough, and difficulty of breathing, during foggy weather or the winter season, lozenges composed of ipecacuan powder, an alcoholic extract of squills, extract of liquorice, benzoic acid, oil of aniseeds, and camphor, as a certain preventive of these affections. The latter physician contends that this composition, which is far from being unpleasant, allays irritation, facilitates breathing, and promotes expectoration more effectually when dissolved gradually in the mouth than when taken into the stomach, in consequence of its immediate action on the branches of the nerves which are distributed over the larynx and pharynx. He recommends five or six to be taken daily.—*Gaz. of Health*.

MUSK SEEDS.

The seeds of the *Hibiscus abelmoschus*, which, in consequence of having the odor of musk, are termed *musk seeds*, have been esteemed by the Arabians as a powerful strengthener of the nervous system, and have lately been very

successfully administered in this country and in Italy as a nervous tonic in cases of general irritability of the nervous system, of indigestion from morbid excitement of the stomach, and in paralytic affections, particularly the variety, attended with tremors of spasms or cramp in the stomach or extremities, &c. The tincture of the seeds is the only preparation of them that is used in medicine, the dose of which is from three to four teaspoonsful in a glass of water, two or three times a day. A correspondent, who has given this medicine an extensive trial, recommends the following formula for its exhibition, in cases of general or local nervousness, as nervous headache, nervous indigestion, palpitation of the heart, spasmotic affections of the stomach or bowels, spasms in the extremities, flatulence, paralytic tremors, lowness of spirits, &c. &c.—Take of tincture of musk seeds, 3 drachms. Aromatic spirit of ammonia, Edinburgh Pharm., 3 ounces. Camphorated mixture, 7 ounces. Three tablespoonsful to be taken three times a day.

If the stomach do not perform its office, our correspondent recommends three drachms of the tincture Colombo to be added to the above mixture; and if acidity prevail in the stomach, or the urine be not healthy, two or three drachms of the liquor of potass or subcarbonate of soda. The ladies of France sprinkle musk seeds among their clothes, muffs, &c. for the purpose of imparting to them an odor of musk, which is more delicate and fragrant than that of musk. The odor also preserves clothes, &c. from the moth.—*Ib.*

SINGULAR OCCURRENCE IF TRUE.

A correspondent in l'Isle Jesus, has informed us that a woman who resides there, had, a few days ago, three of her children and her servant girl poisoned in the following extraordinary manner. Previous to her going to church, she gave orders to the girl to make soup, in which she desired her to boil a head of cabbage whole. The girl did as she was ordered, and about noon gave three children some of it. The children almost immediately after swallowing the soup, sickened and died. This had such an effect on the girl that she ran screaming till she met her mistress, who hastened home and was convinced that the girl was not crazy as she imagined, when she beheld her three infants lying lifeless. Her distress on beholding such a melancholy spectacle beggars description. In her phrenzy she blamed the girl for being the cause, and, as a punishment, ordered her to take some of the soup. The poor girl, conscious of her innocence, and to convince her mistress that she knew nothing of a poisonous nature being put into the soup, took some, and was soon after a corpse. A medical gentleman was then sent for, who found on cutting open the whole head of cabbage, that it contained a considerable sized snake, whose poisonous nature caused this melancholy catastrophe.

Montreal Gazette.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1827.

To the Ed. of the Med. Intelligencer.

SIR,—Having seen in the newspapers that a Mr. Drake has lately lost his life in France by the bite of a rattlesnake, within eight hours after the infliction of the wound; and knowing also that a man was bitten by one in London in 1810, and died in consequence within fortyeight hours, I am led

to inquire whether it is because the Faculty in England and France know of no remedy. It is hardly credible, and is unaccountable that this should be the case. I know not of any deaths in this country from this cause, nor do I know the remedy to resort to, in case I should be at a distance from a physician. I suggest this subject as worthy of a communication in your Medical Intelligencer, and as comporting well with your design. The exhibitor of rattlesnakes in this city was bitten last summer, and I know not whether he was cured; but the presumption is that he was, and if so, it being a very recent case, the remedies and applications can be very distinctly specified. Respectfully,

A SUBSCRIBER.

Boston, March 26, 1827.

This is certainly a pertinent and important inquiry, but possessing nothing from our own experience sufficiently certain and accurate on the subject for publication, we shall be grateful to any friend or contributor who will enable us to publish anything useful in relation to the cure of this frightful accident.

When the proprietor of the rattlesnakes in this city last August, was bitten in the hand, the part wounded began to swell immediately, when a friend "cut the wound," and applied his mouth to it to extract the poison. A physician soon after arrived, and bathed the wound with olive oil, after which the swelling subsided, and the man did well. It is said that our Indians absorb or suck out the virus in this way, and that the application of oil is strongly recommended.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Some gentleman of Charleston, S. C., has been kind enough to send us, by mail, a printed catalogue of the students, &c. of the Medical College of South Carolina. We are pleased to see the names of so many reputable teachers, and of so goodly a number of pupils; and if the gentleman who has thus favored us, will have the goodness to pay the postage of the next catalogue he sends us, we shall feel 25 cents more obliged to him for it than we do for this.

NOTICE.

Cash will be paid at this office for any copies of No. 20, Vol. 4th, of the Medical Intelligencer, which was published on the 3d of October last. Many of these papers were distributed for inspection, where we apprehend a number of them may now remain, of little or no value to the present possessor.

DICTIONARY.

Antiphlogistics, are those medicines, &c. which lessen inflammation, or increased action.

Cinchona, Peruvian bark.

Cephalalgia, headache.

Enema, singular, *enemata*, plural; clysters, injections.

Formula, a little form of prescriptions, such as physicians use in extemporaneous practice, in distinction from the greater forms in dispensaries, &c.

Hypochondria, those spaces on each side of the body, which lie between the lower ribs and the hips, near the spine.

Maxilla, the jaw.

Ophthalmia, inflammation of the eyes.

Phlegmon, a small inflamed tumor, tending to suppuration.

Scybala, hard balls, or lumps of fecal matter.

Sedatives, medicines which diminish action and energy. The reverse of stimulants.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

A NEW EDITION OF
**THACHER'S MILITARY
 JOURNAL**
 OF THE
 AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

COTTONS & BARNARD have just published, A MILITARY JOURNAL DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR, from 1775 to 1783; describing interesting events and Transactions of this period; with numerous Historical Facts and Anecdotes, from the Original Manuscript. To which is added an Appendix, containing Biographical Sketches, of several General Officers. By JAMES THACHER, M. D. late Surgeon in the American Army. Second Edition, Revised and Corrected.

"As Americans we hail with delight any attempt to rescue from oblivion the words or actions of those whose names we have been taught to revere."

April 10.

DR. HULL'S TRUSS.

THE very great superiority of this instrument over every other heretofore invented, as to convenience, ease, and comfort to the wearer, and its curative power, is shown by the testimony of respectable physicians, and the formal approbation of Medical Societies, but more than all by the actual cures it has performed. For a more particular description of this Truss, see the last Edition, 1826, of Thacher's Modern Practice.

Ebenezer Wight, Apothecary, Milk Street, opposite Federal Street, has just received an assortment of Umbilical and Inguinal Trusses.

March 6th.

THE STUDY OF MEDICINE. By John Mason Good. In five volumes. Fourth American Edition. Reprinted from the last London edition. Greatly improved and enlarged. Lately published, and for sale by Wells & Lilly.

MEDICAL LECTURES IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

THE Medical Lectures in Harvard University will begin at the Medi-

cal College, Mason Street, Boston, on the THIRD WEDNESDAY IN OCTOBER NEXT; the time having been altered from the Third Wednesday in November, at which time they formerly commenced.

WALTER CHANNING,
Dean of the Medical Faculty.

Summer Course of Midwifery Lectures.

Dr. Channing's Summer Course of Lectures in Midwifery will begin on the first Wednesday in June next. For Terms, apply to Dr. C. at his house in Common Street.

A VAPOR or SULPHUR BATH can be had at any proper hour of the day, at 3, Central Court. The proper hours are before breakfast, dinner, and tea. The best time is between 11 and 2 o'clock.

A portable bath may be taken to the patient's house, if ordered by the attending physician, and administered under his direction.

THE two first of the following works were translated from the French, and the others written, by the Editor, and are for sale at this Office.

BRERA on Worms.

BICHAT on the Membranes.

Discourses on Warm and Cold Bathing.

A Dissertation on Medical Education, and on the Medical Profession.

Remarks on the Dangers and Duties of Sepulture.

THE NORTH AMERICAN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL,

IS published quarterly, in numbers containing about 200 pages each, on the first day of January, April, July, and October. Price five dollars a year, payable in advance. Hilliard, Gray, & Co. Agents, Boston.

DR. PARSONS, SURGEON DENTIST.

NO. 17, WINTER STREET,

DEVOTES himself to OPERATIONS ON THE TEETH, and to the treatment of such diseases as usually fall to the department of the Dentist. Dr. P. has for many years given his particular attention to the construction of Artificial Teeth, either in entire sets, or in parts of sets; and is enabled to secure them in such a manner that they will be firm, durable, and useful.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St., corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M.D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1827.

NO. 48.

MEDICAL POLICE.

VACCINATION OF THE POOR.

In February last, the Physicians of the Boston Dispensary addressed a Memorial to the City Council on the subject of vaccinating the poor; this induced the Common Council to write to the Association of Boston Physicians respecting the best mode of effecting this object. The medical Faculty immediately gave their attention to the matter submitted to them, and on the 3d of March, 1827, sent the following communication to the City Council.

To Jeremiah S. Boies, Esq.

SIR,—The Members of the Boston Medical Association having received and taken into consideration the communication from the committee of the City Council on the subject of vaccination, beg leave respectfully to reply,—

That in their opinion it is not, at the present moment, necessary nor expedient to have recourse to a general vaccination; but that it is a matter of some consequence to devise some means of preventing in future the necessity of such a measure, by promoting the regular and constant practice of vaccination among the inhabitants of the city. With this view they are ready, as indeed they always have been, in regard to persons making seasonable application, to vaccinate gratuitously all those

to whom the payment of the usual fee is a hardship, or an inconvenience. And in order that no obstacle may stand in the way of application to them, they propose that the City Government should designate certain of their officers, whose duty it shall be to determine what persons come within the limits of this proposition, and to give them certificates to this effect; which certificate, on being presented to any member of the Association, shall entitle the bearers to vaccination free of expense.

They further propose, as a means of making this provision more effectual, that a notification to this effect be distributed annually, at the same time with that for the April Election; this being the season which is at once most favorable and most convenient for the purpose.

The members of the Association are, however, aware of the difficulty of inducing persons to avail themselves of an opportunity of this kind, except under the excitement of an immediate alarm of the smallpox. In order therefore to provide a sufficient inducement, they propose that the City Government should apply to the Legislature for an act giving power to the municipal authority, or school committee, of any town or city in the commonwealth, to make it a condition of admission into the public schools, that chil-

dren shall exhibit satisfactory evidence of having undergone the cowpock.

Should the Legislature see fit to pass such a law and make it applicable to all towns in the commonwealth, it would be desirable to connect with it a general Vaccine Institution for the preservation and dissemination of the Vaccine matter. Such an institution would indeed be almost an essential part of a general plan, because in the remote or thinly inhabited districts of the country, it would be impossible to keep the disease constantly in existence, from want of a succession of subjects for receiving it. It would therefore be necessary to provide some central depository where matter could always be obtained.

J. G. COFFIN, *Chairman.*

J. P. SPOONER, *Secretary.*

March 3d, 1827.

On the 12th of March, a committee of the City Council read the following report to their own body.

The Committee of the City Council, to whom was referred a memorial of the physicians of the Boston Dispensary on the subject of vaccination, ask leave to report,

That they have given to the subject a consideration in some degree proportioned to its high importance.

It appears, that during the last year in the city of Baltimore there died of smallpox two persons, in Philadelphia three, in New York fiftyeight, and in our own city none, but that in January last one died here of this disease who had just before arrived from New York; that your Committee, after a private delibera-

tion on this subject, and in the belief that a course less precipitate than that which was adopted in a moment of panic three years since would ensure greater security at less expense to the city, addressed to the Medical Association of Boston a request for the advice of the members, and feel great satisfaction with their attention to this request; that they believe the reply of the Association cannot fail to be highly encouraging to the City Council and beneficial to the whole community, for which purposes the committee enclose it with this report, and hope it may be read as part thereof. That it is generally known, that the Boston Medical Association comprehends nearly all the members of the profession in this city, and your committee understand, that the first meeting of this body called to consider of their request was fully attended, and the subject being then referred to five gentlemen, equally distinguished for benevolence and skill, the report thereon made by them at an adjourned meeting a week after was, on debate and explanation, unanimously accepted; that the report of the Association made to the chairman of this Committee may be confidently referred to for illustration and support of the measures herewith recommended; that any order on the matter by the Association in their reply last mentioned is designedly omitted, because it manifestly relates to a general good for the whole Commonwealth rather than for this city, and it may be presumed that the wisdom of the Legislature will make due provision for a general vaccine Institution; that, in conclusion, the Committee recommend to the City

Council the following resolutions for their adoption. All of which is respectfully submitted by

JEREMIAH S. BOIES, *Chairman.*

Resolved, that it is not expedient, at the present time; to have recourse to a general vaccination, and that it is desirable to adopt means for preventing in all future time the necessity of such a sudden measure.

Resolved, that the Mayor, any member of the City Council, or Overseer of the Poor, on application from any inhabitant of Boston to enjoy the advantage of gratuitous vaccination for him or herself or his or her child, may at his discretion issue to such person a certificate addressed to any member of the Boston Medical Association in the form and of the import following:

This may certify, that in my judgment vaccination free of expense is to be afforded to A. B., an inhabitant of this city, inasmuch as the payment of the usual fee would be a hardship or an inconvenience to the bearer.

To C. D. Signed, J. Q.
Boston, 1827.

Resolved, That on the annual notifications distributed for warning the citizens to attend meetings in their several wards to vote for Governor &c. on the first Monday of April, there shall be printed information, that any person, to whom the payment of the usual fee for vaccination is a hardship or an inconvenience may apply to the Mayor, or any member of the City Council or Overseer of the Poor for a certificate to entitle him to the benefit free of expense.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to take such mea-

sures as they may deem expedient to obtain an Act of the Legislature by which the municipal authority of any town or city in the Commonwealth, or its school Committee may be empowered to make it a condition of admission into its public schools, that children shall exhibit satisfactory evidence of having undergone the cowpock.

In the board of Alderman, March 13th, 1827, Read and accepted, and thereon ordered, that Alderman Savage, with such as the Common Council may join, be a Committee, to carry the same into effect. Sent down for concurrence.

JOSIAH QUINCY, *Mayor.*

In Common Council, March 19, 1827. Read and concurred, and Messrs. Parker of Ward No. 10, and Bradford, are joined.

JOHN R. ADAN, *President.*

This is good *medical police* so far as it goes; it only remains for the Legislature to sanction and complete it, and for the Commonwealth to adopt and execute it. It is the first adequate and effectual measure of security we have ever enacted against the introduction of smallpox since Edward Jenner announced the Vaccine Preventive, or Benjamin Jenner misnamed the disease kine or kind-pock, instead of *cowpock*, as one compound word, without the hyphen.

VACCINATION.

In other countries of Europe general vaccination is ordered by government: no one who has not had cowpock or smallpox can be confirmed, put to school, apprenticed, or married. Smallpox inoculation is prohibited; if it ap-

pears in any house, this house is put under quarantine. By such means the mortality of the smallpox in 1818 has been prodigiously lessened. In Copenhagen it was reduced from 5500 during twelve years, to 158 during sixteen years. In Prussia it was reduced from 40,000 annually, to less than 3000; and in Berlin, in 1819, only 25 persons died of this disease. In Bavaria only 5 persons died of smallpox in eleven years, and in the principality of Anspach it was completely exterminated. In England, on the other hand, the native country of this splendid and invaluable discovery, where every man acts on these subjects as he likes, crowds of the poor go unvaccinated; they are permitted not only to imbibe the smallpox themselves, but to go abroad and scatter the venom on those they meet. A few years ago it broke out in Norwich, and carried off more persons in one year than had ever been destroyed in that city by any one disease, except the plague. A similar epidemic raged at Edinburgh; and last year it destroyed within one of 1300 persons in the London bills of mortality.—*Phil. Museum.*

IMPERFECT VISION, GHOSTS, &c.

Mr. Abernethy, in a late lecture on physiology, &c., noticed an affection of the organs of vision, which he experienced after a fracture of the nasal lamella, by a blow on the nose, from the head of his horse. The blood flowing from the nostrils in a full stream, he got off his horse, and squeezed the bones into their proper situation, as well as he could. The people, who soon flocked round him, offered to send for a surgeon, but Mr. Abernethy thanked them,

and emphatically observed, *I would rather you would send for a hackney coach.* After he arrived at his house, he for the first time in his life perceived an imperfection in his sight. “I found,” said he, “that I could not see more than two thirds of an object. I looked with one eye, and then I looked with the other, and afterward with both; but still I perceived the third of every object was eclipsed on the right side.

Mr. A. noticed this peculiar affection to a medical man, of whose professional abilities he entertained a very high opinion, who observed, after *attentively listening to his narrative*, that it was impossible! Mr. A. replied, “Well, I don’t know whether it be impossible or not, but I know what I tell you is true.” Some time after this conversation, his friend met with an accident, which was followed by the same affection of the organs of vision, except the eclipse of the objects was on the left side. Mr. A. observed to him, “there is only one thing I regret, which is, when I was in that state I did not squint, merely to ascertain how the things would then appear.” His friend told him, that he was satisfied it arose from the optic nerves. Mr. A. asked him if he squinted. “O, no,” replied the gentleman, “I never thought of squinting.” Since that time, Mr. A. has often experienced a recurrence of this affection, without any blow; and he has, on these occasions, squinted, but the objects appeared the same. “Let those,” observed Mr. Abernethy, “who can account for it, as arising from a decussation of the nerve, do it: my own opinion is, that it arises from the irregular action of the expan-

sion of the optic nerve, termed the *retina*. You know," said Mr. A., "there are people who see ghosts and goblins, and so on—not *blue devils*; I suppose they don't see any of these, but they think they *see men and women*. You know all this, I dare say. There is a very curious case related of a man, who was a wellknown character, and a man of sense, who, it is said, used to see a number of people in the room with him. Now, he himself has described the whole of the phenomenon, and all its adjuncts. He has said, after taking a cup of coffee or tea, or so on, they came into his room in great numbers; and as he got better, and less nervous, he has only seen the arms or legs of the persons. Now this is all an irregular action of the *retina*. A gentleman, sitting in his library, reading or writing, on turning round his head, saw, sitting in a chair, a woman in a *red cloak*. He said, 'How came you here, good woman?' The woman said nothing. 'What is the meaning of your being here, woman?' exclaimed the gentleman. No answer being made, he, in an angry tone, told her to go out of the room. The woman still taking no notice of him, he got up, and rang the bell for a servant, who soon entered the room, when the gentleman desired him to turn the woman out. 'What woman, Sir?' said the servant. 'Why this woman, in the red cloak.'—'Why, Sir,' said the man, 'there is no woman, or any red cloak here.'—'Well, then,' says he, 'go for my doctor, and tell him I am very ill.' The man, however, satisfied him, by assuring him that it was a delusion of his sight.

"Now," continued Mr. Aber-

nethy, "I have had this partial loss of vision so often, that it has been a matter rather of amusement to me than anything else. I have stood before a glass, to look at the upper part of my head, eyes, and nose, which I saw very distinctly, but I could not see that I had any mouth or *jaw*; and I have seen my shoulders very well, but all was blank between my nose and shoulders. Why now, I say, what can you make of this, but that it is errors of action or inactivity in parts of the *retina*?" As this observant gentleman has had so many opportunities of amusing himself during the partial action of his *retinæ*, we are surprised that he has neglected to notice at the time the state of the pupils of his eyes. It was certainly of consequence to ascertain whether they were unusually dilated or contracted, and especially if one or both were irregularly contracted. This variety of imperfect vision is similar to that which we lately noticed under the head of *muscae volitantes*, or black spots floating before the eyes, producing partial vision, which Sauvage attributes to an opacity of the vessels of the vitreous humor near the *retina*, probably from over distension. The late Dr. Adams was affected with this disease only a fortnight or three weeks before his death, and a few days before his dissolution he observed the spots had united, and formed a very dark one, about the size of a shilling. Having died apoplectic, it is probable the vessels of the interior part of the eye were in a state of congestion. The complaint which has amused Mr. Abernethy is a very common precursor of violent nervous head-

ache, and is therefore very properly dependent on partial palsy of the optic nerve, or what may be termed partial amaurosis, not produced by the mechanical effects of overdistended bloodvessels, either in the interior of the eye or within the skull, or by obstruction of the former to the transmission of rays of light to parts of the retina, but originating in the retina or the trunk of the optic nerve. The Peruvian bark, with the wild valerian root, an active aperient, the compound asarabacca snuff, and the shower bath, have generally succeeded in removing the cause of this disease. It is a common attendant on a slight fit of intoxication, and sometimes a forerunner of a paroxysm of gout and of epilepsy.—*Gazette of Health.*

NITROUS ACID AND OPIUM IN DYSENTERY, CHOLERA, AND DIARRHOEA.

In the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal for July last, Thomas Hope, Esq. Surgeon at Chatham, has published some "observations on the powerful effects" of the above mixture in bowel complaints. After some preparatory remarks, Mr. H. informs us that he was made acquainted by accident, more than twenty-six years ago, with the efficacy of this remedy in dysentery. Since that period he has continued to use it with unvaried success, in all cases, in his private and public practice. "In 1821, many cases of cholera and diarrhoea occurred on board the *Ganymede*, of which I was Surgeon, all of which were treated successfully with the acid mixture. In 1824, in the month of September, seventyone cases of

disorder of the bowels occurred, many of which were remarkably severe. Not one of the patients died; not one of them had occasion to take more than five doses; the greater number only two; and one only had occasion for medical attention beyond the second day, as may be seen by the books of H. M. S. Dolphin, of which I was then Surgeon. On board the same ship, in July, 1825, no less than 264 cases of colic, dysentery, cholera, and diarrhoea occurred, owing, in a great degree, to the unusual and intense heat of the weather, which was severely felt throughout the kingdom. Of these, not one died; and eighty-five were so soon relieved, that they were scarcely absent from duty, the acid having so speedily produced its usual good effect."

Mr. H. confesses that most of these cases were very slight; but, he adds, "I am fully persuaded, that out of such a number of cases, two or three at least of them, under the ordinary treatment, would have proved either lingering or fatal. The form of the medicine, as I have used it in all the cases here referred to, is as follows :

R. Acid. Nitrosi, 3*i.*

Mist. Camphoræ, 3 *vij.* misce
et adde.

Tinct. Opii, gtt. *xl.*

S. One fourth to be taken every
three or four hours.

"A small addition of syrup of red poppies improves not only the appearance of the mixture, but, in some instances, it has appeared to increase its effects.

"In chronic dysentery, the dose of two ounces three times a day, is quite sufficient; the remedy is grateful to the taste, abates thirst, soon removes the intensity

of pain, and procures, in general, a speedy and permanent relief. No previous preparation is requisite for taking it, nor any other care whilst taking it, except the keeping of the hands and feet warm, preserving the body as much as possible from exposure to extreme cold, or currents of air, and making use of warm barley water, or thin gruel, and a diet of sago or tapioca."

Mr. Hope adds that he tried nitric instead of nitrous acid, but found it not any way beneficial to his patients.

One of the editors of this journal has availed himself of Mr. Hope's recommendation concerning nitrous acid and opium. He has used Mr. H.'s formula in a bad case of dysentery, which had resisted a great variety of treatment. The patient assured him that his calls to the stool were repeated frequently every five minutes—in spite of opium and sugar of lead—of injections of laudanum and starch, &c. The case yielded in twentyfour hours to Mr. Hope's formula. It has since been employed in two cases of cholera infantum with most speedy and salutary effects. In a case of cholera in an adult, it operated like a charm, and in five or six cases of disordered bowels, it has fully come up to the high character claimed for it by Mr. Hope.—*N. Amer. Med. and Surg. Journal.*

COLOMBO ROOT.

M. Guibourt gives some observations of colombo root. The true root, which is that of the *cocculus palmatus*, Decandolle, is scarcely seen any more in commerce; it has given place to a spurious sort which comes from

the Barbary States, and which looks like, but is not, however, the gentian. The true colombo is of a greenish color, of a very bitter taste; presents sometimes a radiated structure, and becomes blackish with iodine, on account of the starch which it contains. False colombo is of a yellow brown color, and a taste rather acrid than bitter, with an odor like gentian. Iodine discovers no starch in it, and does not change its color; it becomes blackish green with sulphate of iron. Its aqueous infusion reddens tourne-sol; ammonia is disengaged from it by caustic potassa, all, circumstances which do not obtain with genuine colombo.—*Arch. Gen.*

SIR ANTHONY CARLISLE'S NEW METHOD OF BLISTERING.

Sir Anthony has lately addressed a letter to Sir Gilbert Blane on blisters, rubefacients, and escharotics, in which he has described the manner of employing an instrument to effect these purposes. Sir Anthony asserts, that his method is not so painful as the ordinary process of blistering; and to assure himself of this, he first tried the experiment on himself. He says, "the action of a metallic substance heated in boiling water, was first tried on my own arm, and though the pain for the instant was severe, the sum of distress was far below that which is occasioned by a blister of cantharides. I have since employed this mode of blistering on many patients, both women and men, selecting those who had lately been blistered with cantharides plaster, and they affirmed, that the momentary endurance of the instrument was preferable to the other method; and when a repe-

tition of blisters has been since necessary, they have asked for the quick process."

The method of blistering recommended, consists in the application of a metallic instrument; as a small plate of polished iron, heated to a temperature of 212 degrees, by immersion in boiling water for five minutes, to the part intended to be blistered, having previously covered the part with a piece of silk, moistened with warm water; the instrument requires to be firmly pressed against the part for three or four seconds. The first effects of the application are, a corrugation and paleness of the skin; but the red blood soon returning, an inflammatory redness appears, and gradually proceeds to discharge serum, and to detach the cuticle; the wound is then to be dressed with any mild cerate. By this process, the risk of producing strangury is prevented; but this inconvenience may be averted in the ordinary mode of blistering, if the precaution be taken to sprinkle a little camphor on the blister. We saw some patients in the Westminster Hospital who complained very much of the pain which this method of blistering occasioned. It has been employed in a case of sciatica with success.

ON THE EFFICACY OF NITRATE OF SILVER IN THE TREATMENT OF ZONA OR SHINGLES.

This disease, which by Bate-man, Plumb, and other English writers, is denominated, after Suavage, *herpes zoster*, and by Alibert, *dartre phlycténoïde ou Zone*, is exceedingly troublesome to patients, and on this account deserves to attract the attention

of the physician. By Dr. Bate-man it is said, that "it is scarcely necessary to speak of the treatment of a disorder, the course of which scarcely requires to be regulated, and *cannot be shortened by medicine.*" Though we cannot, in this country, admit, in all cases the correctness of the latter part of the above sentence, having seen the disease yield occasionally to the local employment of corrosive sublimate, Citrin ointment, and the like, we are nevertheless disposed to regard it as among those which are the most difficult to cure. From this circumstance we have been induced to direct the attention of our readers to a short essay published by M. Ernest Geoffroy, in the number of the *Revue Medicale* for April 1826, on the local application of lunar caustic in this complaint.

"The analogy," says Mr. G., "which this complaint presents to smallpox, suggested to Mr. Serres a mode of treatment of which no physician had hitherto made use. It occurred to him that the ecroctic method which had been successfully employed in some cases of smallpox, might be beneficially applied to zona. The object of this ingenious means is to relieve the patients from the acute pains they experience even a long time after the complete removal of the eruption."

Mr. G. relates three interesting cases—the first of which was communicated by Mr. Serres; the second observed at the Val de Grace, and the third related in the service of Mr. Lisfranc and under the immediate charge of Mr. G. In all these cases the treatment was completely and quickly successful.

We may add here, that though Mr. Serres may deserve credit for first using lunar caustic in this particular species of herpes, other physicians have certainly employed it long before him in other species of the same disease. We ourselves, more than six years ago, had occasion to treat in a boarding school of this city, more than twelve young ladies affected with *tetter*. Lunar caustic was the only means resorted to, and proved highly successful. We have ever since pursued the same practice in such cases. We do not state this with a view of claiming the credit of originality, as we had before seen the remedy used by other practitioners.—*N. Amer. Med. and Surg. Journ.*

THE HYPOCHONDRIAC CURED.

A gentleman laboring under a very singular species of mental delusion, arising from hypochondria, fancied that he had a bottle growing at the end of his nose, nor could all the reasoning of his friends convince him to the contrary, though, on all other points, he was perfectly rational. Medical skill was equally baffled in attempting to cure this extraordinary aberration of intellect; at length, one practitioner being informed of the case, resolved to adopt a different mode of treatment. Accordingly, on being introduced to the patient, he exclaimed—"How wonderful! I never beheld such a sight before!—why you have a great bottle hanging from your nose!" "That I certainly have," replied the hypochondriac, "yet would you believe it, you are the only person who will credit it—every one else maintains that it is a mere whim of my own. "Well," cried

the doctor, "at least we will soon have it off." So saying, he seized hold of the patient's nose with one hand, while, with the other, he gave him such a tremendous box on the ear, that he was completely stunned for some seconds. Then adroitly slipping a bottle out of his pocket which he had brought with him for the purpose, he exclaimed, "I have knocked it clean off! see, here it is!"—The patient expressed himself overjoyed that the operation had been so speedily accomplished, declared that he was perfectly cured, extolled the doctor for his miraculous skill, and ever after kept the bottle as a memento of his former disease, and as an ocular demonstration of the case to all who might question its reality.—*N. P. A.*

EXTRACT FROM A LECTURE ON DROPSY, BY DR. AYRE.

You will collect from the observations which I have just made to you, that the dropsical effusion into the cavity of the body, as the mere effect of a disease, and not the disease itself, may be often temporarily removed, when the cause producing it is left behind; whilst, in other cases, the means which are employed with the professed purpose of only removing the water, may succeed in removing at once the water and the cause of it. Now this cause, as I have already stated to you, is an inflammatory action present in the vessels of the serous membranes; and it is by the low and spare diet which Nature often, by diminishing the appetite, happily puts the patient on, and by the active purging and other means prescribed for carrying off the water, that this inflammatory action is at length, in some in-

stances, subdued. On this, the cause being removed, the removal of the fluid collected is a task of little comparative difficulty ; and hence any diuretic given at the time when this very material, but often unobserved, improvement has been effected, obtains a credit for the cure, which would have equally been due to other medicines of the same class, if given under the same circumstances. And this, I apprehend, is the reason why the *genista*, or broom, has just now acquired such celebrity, by the beneficial effects it is thought to have produced in the complaint of an illustrious personage, but which has not been more useful than others would have been, if given under the same improved condition of the disease. And this is a point of great importance for you to attend to; for you might be misled by its apparent success in this case, and be induced to rely on it as a remedy in dropsy ; the truth of the matter being *this*, that neither the broom, nor any other of the class of diuretics, is a remedy in dropsy, if the cause be unremoved, and that it can only be by attending to this distinction, that the true extent of their powers can be appreciated. In fact, you must remove the cause of the effusion, before you can permanently remove the fluid effused ; and as this cause consists of an inflammatory state of the serous tissues, you must direct yourselves to this cause ; and instead of trusting to the indirect and uncertain means of mere regimen and general remedies, you must employ other and more direct means for its removal. To illustrate this important principle, I may mention the particulars of a case of dropsy which some months ago came under my care, and which, by its suc-

cessful issue, proved very fully the benefit of the antiphlogistic plan of treatment in these diseases, and confirms the view which I have taken of the inflammatory character of anasarca swellings. The case I allude to, is that of a gentleman whom I saw in consultation with Mr. P. Macgregor, surgeon to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and sergeant surgeon to his Majesty. The patient was fifty-seven years of age, of a plethoric habit, and labored under a dropsy of the chest and abdomen, with very considerable dropsical swellings of the legs and thighs. The anasarca state had been coming on for two years, but the effusion into the cavities had only recently happened. The dyspnoea, and other symptoms of water in the chest, were very urgent ; whilst the entirely broken state of health under which the patient apparently was, tended further to deprive his friends and family of every hope of his recovery. From reasons, however, which I have already explained to you, it appeared probable that there was no considerable degree of structural disease, and that by pursuing the antiphlogistic plan of treatment, both the two forms of the disease might be removed. Cupping, therefore, of the chest, with occasional blistering, was employed, together with active purgatives and diuretics, and a spare regimen. The cupping was repeated seven times in about the same number of weeks, and, with the early effect, aided by the general remedies, of relieving, and with the final one of entirely curing him of the dropsy in the cavities, and so much, likewise, of the anasarca affection as extended above the knees. The dropsical swellings of the legs and feet resisted

these means, and it was thought that they arose from debility, an opinion almost universally entertained in these cases, and that they would yield as the strength returned. And this notion was strengthened, it was thought, by the fact, that the swelling of the feet and ankles had already existed two years, and had become habitual to the parts. It did not, however, appear to differ in the nature of its cause, from the effusion into the cavities ; and it yielded not to the general means, only because of its purely local nature. Local means, therefore, became necessary to subdue the increased action in the vessels of the part, and these means were the cold evaporating lotions which I have described to you, applied by pledgets of muslin to the dropsical limbs. The general remedies had been discontinued for some time, when this plan was begun. From the first day of their use, the swellings began to subside, and in less than three weeks were entirely removed ; and though it is now more than four months since this result occurred, there has been no return whatever of any dropsical symptom, and, at the present time, our patient is in the enjoyment of perfect health, without a vestige remaining of his former disease.

ANIMAL POISONS.

The following case of the bite of a rattlesnake, is recorded by Dr. Thacher, in his Military Journal, p. 54, Cottons & Barnard's edition.

Soon after my arrival at Ticonderoga, a soldier had the imprudence to seize a rattlesnake by its tail ; the reptile threw its head back, and struck its fangs into the man's hand. In a few

moments a swelling commenced, attended with severe pain. It was not more than half an hour, when his whole arm to his shoulder was swollen to twice its natural size, and the skin became of a deep orange color. His body, on one side, soon became affected in a similar manner, and a nausea at his stomach ensued. The poor man was greatly and justly alarmed ; his situation was very critical. Two medical men, beside myself, were in close attendance for several hours. Having procured a quantity of olive oil, we directed the patient to swallow it in large and repeated doses, till he had taken one quart ; and at the same time we rubbed into the affected limb a very large quantity of mercurial ointment. In about two hours we had the satisfaction to perceive the favorable effects of the remedies. The alarming symptoms abated, the swelling and pain gradually subsided, and in about forty-eight hours he was happily restored to health.

CASE OF THE BITE OF A VIPER TREATED SUCCESSFULLY BY THE APPLICATION OF THE CUP- PINGGLASS.

On the 17th of May, 1826, a gardener was bitten by a viper which had been offered to him for sale. This was at half past five in the morning. At seven, the part was swollen, with pain, tingling in the hand, and sense of coolness, which were followed by vomiting.

In a short time afterwards, the swelling increased enormously. It seemed to be of the nature of edema, and its appearance, indicated that gangrene would speedily supervene. The tempera-

ture of the part was lower than it usually is all over the arm, up to the axilla, to which part, in fact, the swelling had extended. Vomiting of mucous and bilious matter continued now and then; the tongue was natural; the stools were very fetid. Pulsation of the heart feeble; no pulsation was felt in the radial or carotid arteries, whilst that in the crural was very strong. The head and upper extremities were ice cold, the lower members were warm, but not near their natural state. The face was swollen, and nearly double its usual size. The neck also participated in the swelling, but there were no spasms.

As the patient had two wounds on his hand, one of which was not considered by him to be the bite of the animal, it was thought proper to apply two cuppingglasses; having previously made an incision of three lines immediately over the wounds, a quantity of serous fluid, which resembled that in dropsical people, was evacuated, which had, however, no effect on a cat that was inoculated with it.

The cuppingglass was applied for half an hour, during which time several spoonfuls of fluid were evacuated. The skin reddened a little, and a drop of blood or so flowed from the wound. Hands and feet were kept warm; frictions were made in the region of the heart, and gummy potions administered.

In half an hour the patient spoke better than he had done. The infiltration in his face and limbs diminished. Pulsations of the carotids and lacteals remained unchanged.

The cuppingglass was reapplied for half an hour, which again removed a quantity of serosity.

During the day time, the face resumed nearly its normal state; the pulsations of the heart increased. Nausea ceased, and the pulse of the head and arms returned.

In the evening, the face was completely free from swelling; the axillary glands painful, however, though not much swelled. A red erysipelatous band pointed out the course of the lymphatics; the heart and arteries resumed their natural functions.

On the 18th, the general symptoms had disappeared. The arm and forearm were double their usual size; reddish, warm, and very painful on pressure, particularly at the lower and inner part. Extensive erysipelas now manifested itself all over the extremity, which was treated by applying twenty leeches to the arm, and as many to the forearm. The local symptoms gradually disappeared, with the exception of the swelling.—*Rev. Med., Oct. 1826.*

SOAPWORT, SAPONARIA OFFINALIS.

The use of this plant, as an alterative and deobstruent medicine, has lately been revived in France. Dr. Regnault, physician to the late King of France, from the results of long experience, preferred the extract, tincture, and syrup of this plant, as an alterative in glandular diseases, obstructions of the liver, and as a purifier of the blood, &c. to any preparation of sarsaparilla, or any other medicine which has been recommended as an alterative, deobstruent or corrector of the blood and juices. The late King of France took it occasionally for many years, under the direction of Dr. Regnault, and to its use he attributed a considerable prolongation of his life. His Catholic Majesty

preferring the form of pill, Dr. Regnault prescribed the extract in the dose of fifteen grains, in three pills, twice a day. Dr. Regnault was in the habit of recommending the syrup and tincture of the root, the former in the dose of from one to two large tablespoonfuls two or three times a day, and the latter of three tablespoonfuls three times a day ; and he states that he has found them more beneficial in obstructions and chronic diseases of the liver, and in cases of indigestion, than the blue pill, or any other preparation of mercury. The root and leaves of this plant were held by some of the ancients in great estimation as a peculiar alterative medicine, particularly in scrofula, scurvy, gout, rheumatism, and jaundice ; and, according to several writers, the plant has succeeded in curing the sequels of syphilis and mercury, termed pseudosyphilitic, after sarsaparilla and Peruvian bark had failed. The celebrated Boerhaave, who paid particular attention to the effects of remedies, entertained a very high opinion of the efficacy of soapwort, in cases of obstructions of the liver, mesenteric glands, &c. No part of the plant has any particular smell ; but the root and leaves impart, on slight mastication, a bitter, sweet, and pungent taste, the latter of which resembles the pelitory of Spain. Like the sarsaparilla, it is also slightly mucilaginous. The decoction of the root or leaves, and a solution of the extract in water, on being shaken, appears to produce a soapy froth ; and in some countries the decoction of the plant is used instead of soap, for the purpose of washing clothes,—a proof that it possesses a saponaceous quality. It being slightly stomachic and diuretic, we should certainly give it a

decided preference to sarsaparilla, in those diseases for which the latter is prescribed ; and we think, on account of its peculiar saponaceous character, it is probably a good alterative. Neumann and Bergius speak in high terms of commendation of its efficacy as an alterative in scrofula and obstructions of the liver, indigestion, and chronic pains in ligaments and membranes, of bones, &c.—*Gaz. of Health.*

ANATOMY.

Absence of the Gallbladder in a Human Liver. By M. GODELIER, Surgeon in Chief of the Military Hospital of Rochelle.

LEMERY mentions the case of a liver without the gallbladder, but it was thought that this state was owing to disease, rather than a natural conformation. Sabatier says, in his anatomy, that "the gallbladder is never wanting in man; if, occasionally, it has been thought that the contrary has been observed, it may be explained by the minute size of this organ, or its being sunk into the substance of the liver, or its being wasted by some disease." We are inclined to believe that the original deficiency of an organ is of much rarer occurrence than is generally believed ; but, Sabatier's assertion is by far too general, and admits of being easily refuted. The gallbladder is the constant seat of disease; its cavity is frequently distended to an enormous size, and, on the other hand, sometimes quite obliterated. The obliteration of the cavity in the human subject, shows that the organ is not essential to life. And the entire absence of the gallbladder in many animals, particularly the invertebrates, is a proof, by analogy, of this asser-

tion. Meckel, in his *Handbuch der Pathologischen Anatomie*, Bd. I. p. 607, mentions cases of the total absence of the gallbladder in the human subject. Habert and Tiedemann saw cases of this kind, where there was not the slightest trace of a depression in the liver for the gallbladder. The following case may also be quoted in proof of the point, thus showing that the gallbladder is not absolutely necessary to life, and that without this organ a person may enjoy a good state of health.

The subject of the following case, a soldier, aged 26, on the 10th of last September, fell from a height whilst in a state of intoxication, and was killed on the spot. He was immediately carried to the Amphitheatre of the Military Hospital of La Rochelle. The inspection of the body was soon afterwards made in my presence, and the medical men belonging to the regiment. On opening the abdomen, I was immediately struck with the absence of the gallbladder, and that the yellow appearance of the arch of the abdomen, which usually exists, was not present. We then proceeded to a more minute examination of the part, and found that there was not the slightest tint of yellow in the concave surface of the liver, nor any vestige of a fossa. Surprised at this phenomenon, two able assistants were directed to dissect the hepatic duct with care. Its size was double that of the natural state.* No trace of a cystic duct could be discovered. Lastly, to avoid the possibility of

a mistake, the liver was removed from the body and examined, both internally and externally, but without discovering the least vestige of a gallbladder. In short, we are all perfectly convinced that, in this person, the gallbladder never existed.—*Gazette de Santé, October, 1826.*

PHYSIOLOGY.

M. Andral, jun., a gentleman well known as one of the first pathologists in France, has lately announced a discovery which he has made, concerning the circulation of the spleen. The splenic artery, at its termination, is perforated by numerous small holes, which pass immediately into the spongy tissue of this organ. A similar structure exists in the veins. These opinions are substantiated by anatomical preparations.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1827.

Two days ago, we saw a fine infant, four days old, dressed in an ornamented, not ornamental, cap—and asked the mother for what reason she chose to put a cap on her son. She answered, because he looked prettier with it than without it.

This should lead parents to reflect how far this motive does or ought to influence them in the management of their children. It seems to be no better than making the temporary gratification of the parents' pride, habit, or prejudice, the rule of conduct, without any regard to the well-being or suffering of the child. Thus infants are fed, and clothed, and exercised preposterously and hurtfully, merely to please whim, or fancy, without any reference to conse-

* In most of the cases on record of absence of the gallbladder, a similar dilatation of the hepatic duct has been observed.—ED. L.

quences. For ourselves, we see not how anyone, having the care of an infant, can offer to himself or any one else, any excuse or defence of conduct like this. We invite those concerned to reflect a little on this subject, and to be sure they act innocently and safely at least, if not beneficially, for their charge, before they act at all.

As to caps for infants, for an example, they are in the first place useless, and in the next, injurious. If any mother or father denies this, and will state, in his view, any consequent advantage, we will reply by stating our wellfounded objections to this superfluous and pernicious appendage of the infant wardrobe. The good mother, who discharges all her duties to her infant, will find enough to do without taxing herself with useless labor.

Not having been able to complete an article on Beds and Bedsteads, intended for this week, we submit to our readers, in the meantime, the following recipe for securing "solid comfort."

Solid comfort may be copiously derived from the following sources: a quiet conscience; health; liberty; one's time one's own, or, if not, usefully, innocently and moderately employed by others; a freedom from inordinate passions of all kinds; a habit of living within one's income, and saving something for extraordinary occasions; an ability arising from rational economy to defray all necessary and expedient expenses; a habit of good humor, an aptitude to be pleased rather than offended; a preparation for adver-

sity ; love of one's family ; sincerity to friends ; benevolence to mankind ; and piety to God.

MR. ABERNETHY.

A lady very much afflicted with nervous complaints, went to consult the celebrated Surgeon Abernethy. The rough and caustic manner in which he catechised her so discomposed the fair one's weak spirits, that she was thrown into a fit of hysterics. On parting, she put the usual fee into his hands, in the form of a sovereign and a shilling. Mr. Abernethy pocketed the sovereign with one hand, and with the other presented the shilling to her, saying, gravely—"Here, Madame, take this shilling, go to the next toyshop, buy a skipping rope, and use it every day—it will do you more good than all my prescriptions."

A good book, in the language of the booksellers, is a saleable one; in the language of the curious, a scarce one; in that of men of sense, a useful and instructive one.

DICIONARY.

Anasarca, a species of dropsy in which the fluid is effused into the cellular membrane, between the skin and the muscles, or flesh.

Axilla, the armpit; axillary glands, those situated in this place.

Dyspnea, a difficulty of breathing.

Fossa, a depression or groove.

Lacteals, absorbing vessels, arising from the small intestines, and conveying the chyle into the thoracic duct, through which it is carried into the bloodvessels and lungs to become blood.

Lymphatics, a sort of absorbing vessels, or absorbents, which transmit the lymph, or thin part of the blood.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

A NEW EDITION OF
**THACHER'S MILITARY
 JOURNAL**
 OF THE
 AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

COTTONS & BARNARD have just published, A MILITARY JOURNAL DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR, from 1775 to 1783 ; describing interesting events and Transactions of this period ; with numerous Historical Facts and Anecdotes, from the Original Manuscript. To which is added an Appendix, containing Biographical Sketches, of several General Officers. By JAMES THACHER, M. D. late Surgeon in the American Army. Second Edition, Revised and Corrected.

"As Americans we hail with delight any attempt to rescue from oblivion the words or actions of those whose names we have been taught to revere."

April 10.

ATHENEUM :
 OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES.

FOR APRIL 15, 1827,

JUST published by John Cotton, 184 Washington St. corner of Franklin St.
 CONTENTS.—On the Importance of Early Piety—The Chamois Hunter. Part II.—The Gentleman in Black—A Christmas Party—A Song—The Blue Man—Luck and Ill Luck—Varieties—Winter food for Cows—Marriage—Rockets without Wings or Sticks.

GREAT TRUSS MANUFACTORY.

J. P. WHITWELL, Druggist, corner of Milk and Kilby Streets, has in his employment one of the first artists and most ingenious mechanics in the United States, for the purpose of manufacturing Trusses. At this great depository may be found every sort of Truss, manufactured either in Europe or America, made in the most elegant style, and warranted to accomplish every object which a good Truss can effect. To medical men it is needless to state the important advantages which arise from having the instrument well adapted to the part to be relieved. Here the patient, if unable to suit himself with those on hand, may

have one made agreeably to the exact measurement of his body.

French Elastic Catheters.

Just received, from France, a few gross of the most approved Catheters, used by the first physicians and surgeons in the French metropolis ; they are sold at a very low rate.

Bay Rum.

A few dozen bottles of this excellent embrocation in cases of hysterical and nervous affections, &c.

Also, Whitwell's Original and Genuine Liquid Opodeldoc.

April, 1827.

MEDICAL LECTURES IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

THE Medical Lectures in Harvard University will begin at the Medical College, Mason Street, Boston, on the THIRD WEDNESDAY IN OCTOBER NEXT ; the time having been altered from the Third Wednesday in November, at which time they formerly commenced.

WALTER CHANNING,
Dean of the Medical Faculty.

Summer Course of Midwifery Lectures.

Dr. Channing's Summer Course of Lectures in Midwifery will begin on the first Wednesday in June next. For Terms, apply to Dr. C. at his house in Common Street.

A VAPOR or SULPHUR BATH can be had at any proper hour of the day, at 3, Central Court. The proper hours are before breakfast, dinner, and tea. The best time is between 11 and 2 o'clock.

A portable bath may be taken to the patient's house, if ordered by the attending physician, and administered under his direction.

HOOPER'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY.

LEXICON MEDICUM ; or Medical Dictionary ; containing an Explanation of the Terms in Anatomy, Botany, Chemistry, Materia Medica, Midwifery, Mineralogy, Pharmacy, Physiology, Practice of Physic, Surgery, and the various branches of Natural Philosophy connected with Medicine. Selected, arranged and compiled from the best authors. By Robert Hooper, M.D. F.L.S. The fourth American, from the fifth London edition, very considerably enlarged. For sale by Wells & Lilly.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M.D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1827.

NO. 49.

From the N. Amer. Med. and Surg. Jour.
**CASES OF NERVOUS IRRITATION,
EXHIBITING THE EFFICACY OF
COLD AS A REMEDY.**

By S. JACKSON.

THE close alliance and mutual dependence that have been established between the different branches of medical science, is the peculiar feature of the physiological medicine of the present day. No one of them is regarded as independent, as possessing principles and doctrines exclusively its own, and as capable of being cultivated separately, with success. Anatomy, physiology, pathology, and therapeutics, constitute, in fact, a single department, of which they are the subdivisions. They have a correlative affinity so intimate, that a knowledge of the one is indispensable to understand the others. The attempt to advance them singly, has been productive of confusion and error which must be perpetuated by a persistence in this course. A general harmony must, therefore, prevail in the principles of the different branches of medical science. A principle, for instance, that is established in physiology, cannot conflict with a principle or a fact in pathology, or therapeutics; and, whatever is true in one of these, must, in the others, be found to possess an application. If the reverse of this prevails, it is an evidence of error; the prin-

ciple is false, the fact misunderstood, or the application made of them is incorrect.

Medicine, under the influence of this doctrine, acquires a truly philosophical character; is assimilated to the demonstrative and natural sciences, in which a few principles, explain a great variety of phenomena. In like manner, the physiological doctrine of medicine, reduces the immense number of diseases, to which the animal organism is apparently subject, to two, or, at most, three general classes. They may be referred to excess or deficiency of organic action; and, probably, a limited number, to a specific mode of action, but attended always by one of the preceding states, and which regulates the treatment. Two thirds of our diseases are of the first class, and the diversity of phenomena that characterize them, result merely from the intensity, the degree of the irritation, the structure and action of the tissue in which it is seated, the greater or less activity of the sympathies, the temperament and character of the individual.

This communication is not intended to be a dissertation, but a detail of some cases, illustrating, it appears to me, the doctrines of the physiological school of medicine, of which BROUSSAIS has so just a title to be considered its

illustrious founder and able advocate.

If any disease may be considered as distinct from all others, with respect to their essential character, they are cramps, convulsions, &c. vaguely classed, in the common nosological systems, with the designation of neuroses, nervous diseases. On the principles of physiological medicine, they are diseases of irritation, of the same general character as other diseases of irritation, and receive their peculiar character, or the phenomena they present, solely from their location in the nervous system. Their treatment is to be directed on the same principles as other diseases of surirritation, that is, by direct debilitants addressed to the primary seat of the irritation, or by revulsives.

The irritation that occasions nervous phenomena, may be entirely confined to the nervous fibrils of an organ, in which it commences, and from which it is transmitted to the brain, and thence reflected into the voluntary muscles and other tissues; or, it may be complicated with sanguine vascular irritation of the same organ. These circumstances impart a difference to the phenomena attendant on it, and the method of treatment. In the first case, it commonly yields without difficulty to the diffusible stimuli, to narcotics, antispasmodics, and revulsion practised on the exterior. In the last, these remedies are of less assured efficacy, and not unfrequently fail entirely to subdue the affection, and sometimes aggravate it. The agents that debilitate the organic actions, that allay irritation, applied directly to the organ where

it is seated, in conjunction with revulsives, are the means indicated; and, simple as they may seem, are attended with most prompt and decidedly beneficial effects. The following cases belong to this last class, and are well marked examples of the morbid condition I have alluded to, as well as of the treatment I consider most appropriate to it.

CASE 1st. July 23, 1825.—The heat had been excessive for several days; thermometer ranging from 90 to 98 degrees, Fahrenheit. I was called to a man supposed to be suffering from having drunk cold water. The subject was about thirtyfive years of age, fair complexion, stout built, and nervosanguine temperament. He was an Irishman by birth, and a weaver by profession. He had worked steadily, during the day, at his loom, in a confined and very warm room, had been very thirsty, and drunk largely of spirit and water, but not sufficient to intoxicate him. In the evening, he walked out, after eating heartily, and, on his return, was suddenly seized with giddiness, and inability to stand. He was carried home, and, from a supposition that his disorder had been induced by cold water, spirit and laudanum were given to him. The symptoms were immediately aggravated, and in a few moments after, were followed by violent spasmodic and convulsive efforts.

In this state I saw him. It was with difficulty that four or five athletic men could retain him on a bed. The face was flushed, distorted with an expression of anguish; the eyes fiery. The convulsive throes came on in paroxysms, which lasted from five

to six minutes, and with short intervals; in the intervals, jactitation, tossing of the arms, cries of anguish; pulse was frequent, full, and oppressed; skin hot; profuse sweat covered the face and neck; epigastrium exceedingly sensitive, pressure on it raised loud complaints, and renewed the convulsive exertions; thirst intense. Consciousness was perfect, but the mind, concentrated on the sufferings experienced, could not be brought to attend to any inquiries addressed to the patient.

The diagnosis formed of the case was—vascular and nervous irritation of the stomach; the predisposition to gastric irritation, derived from the extreme heat; the irritation itself excited by the use of ardent spirit during the day, and meal in the evening, suddenly aggravated by the spirit and laudanum, administered as remedies; excitement of the general vascular system, and irritation of the portion of the cerebral structure presiding over the voluntary movements, transmitted sympathetically from the stomach.

The treatment was directed by this view. A tub of cold water from a wellpump was ordered, and a vein opened. While the blood was flowing, a stream of cold water was directed to the head, and cold water given in small draughts. At the commencement of the treatment, a convulsive paroxysm came on; it soon ceased, and proved to be the last. The loss of 20 ounces of blood subdued the vascular excitement. The cold drinks and affusion were in the highest degree grateful, and called forth, from the patient, the most extravagant expressions of the relief they afforded him. He now in-

formed me, that the head and stomach were the seats of the anguish he experienced, and, that though he had been conscious of what he was doing, he could not control or restrain the violence of his muscular exertions.

Cloths dipped in cold water were applied to the epigastrium; iced gumwater acidulated with lemon juice, was directed to be given during the night; and a domestic clyster to open the bowels.

July 24. No return of convolution; violent pain in the stomach and bowels, attended with a copious discharge of blood; pulse full and tense; took 12 ounces of blood,—injection of cold water; sal rochelle, one drachm dissolved in a pint of water, a wineglassful every hour; continue gumwater.

July 25. Pain removed; discharge of blood per anum ceased after the first injection of cold water; skin soft and cool; pulse natural; tongue furred; continue gumwater.

July 26. Convalescent.

CASE 2d. January 3, 1826.—Called to see a man in the employment of a livery stable keeper, as an hostler; age, twentyfive; fair complexion, light hair and eyes; slight figure; a Swiss by birth; sanguine nervous temperament.

In the evening, immediately after having eaten supper, he had been seized with great distress, attended with violent convulsive efforts. I found him on the floor, struggling with several persons, who held him down. He uttered cries of anguish, seemed in great torture, was perfectly conscious, but could not express his feelings. When interrogated, he pointed to his stomach, as the seat of pain; the tongue scarlet red on the

edges, and furred ; the skin was cool, and pulse feeble. I was informed by his employer, an Irishman, that he had been very thirsty for several days, and had drunk large quantities of cold water, to which he attributed the present condition of the patient; and was very pressing with him to drink some whiskey, but which was rejected with an expression of horror. I also learnt, he had dined that day on salt pork and cabbage.

From these circumstances, it was concluded that the patient had labored for several days under surirritation of the stomach, evidenced by the extreme thirst he experienced, and which, increased by the indigestible meals he had taken that day, became complicated with nervous irritation, to which he was disposed by his temperament. The heart and arterial system had not yet become disturbed.

Two indications presented themselves; the first, to remove the indigestible contents of the stomach, the cause of the present mischief; the second, to reduce the surirritation of the stomach, and consequently its sensibility, when the stomach would cease to feel morbidly the irritation of its contents, and would resume its functions.

The first might be answered by emetics; but the strong irritation of the emetic might render the existing irritation of the stomach permanent; and might produce continued fever. It was not a safe practice. The last, if it could be accomplished, was the most direct, and, at the same time, safest plan of proceeding. It was preferred. To a pitcher of cold pump water was added

four ounces of sugar, and the patient was directed to drink of it, in small quantities, every few minutes. It was swallowed with the greatest avidity, and, had he been permitted, would have gorged himself with it immediately. Relief was almost instantaneous after the first draughts. The convulsive efforts ceased; the patient sat up and could describe his sensations; he felt as if fire was in his stomach. A pediluvium was ordered, with warm fomentations to the abdomen, frictions to the extremities, and an injection into the rectum. On my return, in half an hour, all the accidents were dissipated; the patient was sitting up, and in comparative ease. He had finished his pitcher of drink, and had commenced on another. Vascular excitement had come on; ten ounces of blood were drawn; the cold drink continued. Next morning, the patient was attending to his duties, and a suitable regimen for a few days entirely restored the stomach to a healthy condition.

CASE 3d. January 21, 1826.—A young gentleman, being engaged in a frolic, drank a pint of undiluted gin, in the course of ten minutes, about eight o'clock, P. M. The usual effects were experienced. He began to complain, after ten o'clock, of great distress about the stomach and head; and, about eleven o'clock, the agitation amounted to violent convulsive efforts of the muscular system, and cries for relief. Warm water was given to him; he vomited freely; no abatement of symptoms; laudanum and ether were administered to allay the convulsive spasms; increase of distress, and aggravation of convulsive throes, were produced. At one

o'clock I was requested to see him. I found him struggling with great violence, and held on the floor by several assistants. The face was flushed; eyes injected and fiery; pupils dilated; expression of anguish on the countenance; no appearance of coma or stupor; evident consciousness; skin hot; pulse large, full, and laboring. He had not conversed since eleven o'clock, but uttered cries of distress and pain; he was apparently in great torture.

Regarding the symptoms as depending on gastric, vascular, and nervous irritation, I gave him a tumbler of cold sweetened water. He drank it with avidity, and with an immediate abatement of the accidents; it was followed by a second, in a few minutes, and soon after he addressed me by name, entreating for relief. The cerebral irritation being still very strong, and the convulsive paroxysms returning, cold affusions were employed to the head, and a third glass of cold sugared water was given. Perfect calm of the muscular commotions was induced, and the patient could converse in a tolerably composed manner. He described his stomach as feeling contracted to the size of a nutmeg; and complaining of his head, and the general vascular system being in a state of high excitement, a vein was opened, and 15 ounces of blood drawn. He was directed to be taken to bed, but the attempt to carry him up stairs renewed the convulsive paroxysm. A second affusion to the head, and another tumbler of water, restored him to tranquillity, and he now walked up stairs, with the aid of an assistant, to his chamber. The cold drink was continued through the night, which

passed without a renewal of the convulsions. The time I was occupied with him, was twenty minutes.

In the preceding cases, the convulsive disturbance of the muscular system, originated from the gastric nervous irritation, which was superadded to vascular irritation, both excited by the same irritants. The irritation was transmitted to the cerebral centre of the sensations and volitions, whence was produced the convulsive, irregular contractions of the voluntary muscles, under its influence. The sensibility of the nervous fibrils of the stomach, the point whence the irritation irradiated to the brain, depended on the nervous temperament of the individuals; that is, to the greater developement and preponderance of their nervous system. The following case, in which a different temperament prevailed, and a different train of phenomena resulting from the same causes, contrasts very strongly with the preceding, and tends to confirm the principles that have been laid down.

Dennis Willey, an Irishman by birth, was employed as a laborer in a brick yard, in the extreme heat of July, 1825, the thermometer ranging in the shade from 90 to 98 degrees, Fahrenheit. He is short of stature, has a small head, low forehead, black hair and eyebrows, dark eyes and complexion, thick neck, large broad chest, strong and well marked muscles; temperament sanguine.

He had persisted, through the day, at his work, unsheltered from the sun, from the 17th to the 19th, drinking whiskey and water, to keep up his strength, though the other hands daily abandoned their

labor, from noon till three o'clock. On the 19th, between one and two, Dennis was compelled to break off, and with difficulty could reach his home, a short distance from the kiln. He experienced nausea, had reachings, violent headache, and intense distress. In this state I saw him a little after two o'clock. He was rolling on the floor; the face of a deep red, with dark brown on the brow; skin dry and burning; the pulse larger and fuller than any I had before felt; the heart pulsated forcibly against the ribs; epigastrium tender, and pressure on it increased his distress; not the slightest convulsive movement; 30 ounces of blood were drawn; cold ablutions directed to the head and body, and small draughts of cold water; as the temperature diminished, affusions of cold water, first to the head, and then over the whole body, were practised. In fifteen minutes, complete relief of the accidents was obtained. The next day, the patient returned to his work, but with more caution.

In the above case, nervous irritation was not awakened in the stomach, and, consequently, was not transmitted to the brain. The subject, from the little development of the nervous system, of which his physiognomy and whole frame gave the strongest indication, possessed but a moderate share of sensibility, and was not disposed to nervous irritation. In him, the vascular was the predominant system, and experienced the full force of the irritation to which he was exposed.

My friend, Dr. LA ROCHE, has promised to close this communication, with the relation of a case of a simila character to the three

first I have detailed, which occurred in his own practice, and which corroborates, both the views that have been given, and the treatment pursued.

Mrs. F—, about thirty years of age, of a sanguine and nervous temperament, was attacked about four years ago, whilst residing in the State of Alabama, with a violent pain in the epigastric region, attended with vomiting. It occurred soon after dinner, and was probably caused by something she had eaten. No physician being at hand, her husband gave her teaspoonful doses of laudanum and chamomile tea, which, however, were ejected from the stomach with considerable efforts, and an aggravation of the symptoms. The gastric irritation and pain soon became so violent, as to occasion severe convulsive movements in almost every muscle of her body, and to deprive her of her senses for more than six hours. From this very severe attack she, however, recovered, more by chance and through the efforts of her good constitution, than from the effects of medicine. Since that period, she has continued subject to this complaint. The attacks are more or less severe, are brought on by the slightest irregularities in regimen, and are in general with difficulty removed.

At two o'clock on the morning of the twentythird of April last, she was once more attacked with this painful complaint, and suffered severely till eight o'clock, when I was requested to visit her. I learned from her friends, that she had been slightly indisposed for a few days, and had eaten the preceding evening a small portion of lobster. This,

together with the greater part of what she had eaten during the day, had been ejected from the stomach a short time previous to my visit. I also was informed that she had taken twenty drops of laudanum, warm teas, and that warm flannel had been applied to the region of the stomach. Her pain was now hardly to be endured; the muscles of her upper extremities, as well as of her neck and face, were spasmodically contracted; her skin was covered with cold perspiration, and her pulse, in the short intervals of the convulsions, was found to be greatly accelerated. Judging, from the severity of these symptoms, that no time was to be lost, and influenced by former prejudices, I immediately directed forty drops of laudanum to be administered in combination with a little of the essence of peppermint, Mrs. F. never taking laudanum without it, and a perseverance in the warm tea, &c. A short time after the exhibition of the laudanum, the pain was aggravated, but soon was a little relieved, in consequence of vomiting supervening. Another dose was soon administered, which again occasioned an increase of the symptoms, and brought on vomiting, by which the stomach was completely cleared. A mustard poultice was ordered to be applied to the epigastric region; but, as it required sometime to be prepared, I judged it advisable to resort, in the mean time, to something, to lessen, if possible, the sufferings of the patient. As laudanum and other remedies usually applied in such cases, instead of abating, seemed to aggravate the pain, I determined to give a trial to cold water, as pre-

scribed in nearly similar cases by my friend, Dr. JACKSON, of this city. A tumblerful of very cold spring water was in consequence procured, one half of which the patient was requested to take immediately. In less than three minutes, some relief was obtained. An equal quantity of the water was given with a still greater, and, indeed, a remarkable mitigation of pain.

The poultice was now applied, and was about ten minutes before producing an inflammation in the skin. During the time, however, Mrs. F. had drunk a second tumbler of the water, had slept a few minutes, remained free from spasms in the muscles, and felt completely relieved from the pain. The poultice was taken off about fifteen minutes after its application, and the patient directed to drink frequently through the day of water sweetened with orange flower syrup. In the afternoon, she experienced some slight spasmodic pains in the stomach, in consequence of eating thin sago, but found relief in a draught of her water. The tongue, however, remained red and somewhat parched; the pulse was quick; skin a little hot; the head painful, and the thirst considerable. The water was directed to be continued, and an emollient injection ordered, in order to relieve a sense of weight and uneasiness in the bowels. The next day, I was very happy to find that all signs of gastric irritation had subsided. The bowels being costive, and the tongue a little foul, but pale, a dose of epsom salt and calcined magnesia was prescribed, and served to remove every vestige of the complaint. With the exception of

the irritation caused by the mustard, Mrs. F. was immediately restored to perfect health.

As may readily be conceived, the favorable issue of this case, under this plan of treatment, was well calculated to make a powerful impression on my mind, and to lead me to the determination, to resort early to the use of cold water, in all cases of painful and spasmotic affections of the stomach, which might, henceforward, present themselves to my observation. I can hardly believe, that the relief afforded in this case can be attributed to any of the means resorted to, other than the water; since the remedies, previously administered, certainly aggravated the symptoms, and ease was afforded to the patient, before the mustard had time to occasion redness of the skin, or the slightest sensation of heat and pain. If this conclusion be admitted as correct, then the above case must be viewed as interesting in many points of view. 1st. It shows the effect of cold water in calming nervous as well as subsequent vascular irritation of the stomach. 2nd. It proves that mere nervous irritation, which is usually thought to require the use of narcotics, antispasmodics, and even diffusible stimuli, may be cured by the same remedies as inflammation, namely, direct sedatives. 3d. It serves to show, also, a striking contrast between the effects of the turbulent practice, too often pursued in gastric irritation, and those of the sedative and soothing plan, recommended by the French physicians of the present day.

FRENCH MEDICAL SCHOOL.

For the study of pathology, Paris affords greater facilities

than any other school in Europe. A far greater proportion of the population go into hospitals in France than in England; and for the purpose of giving the greatest possible extent to pathological inquiries, the right of opening every body that dies in hospitals is secured by law to the attendant physician or surgeon. The name and place of residence of each patient are registered on admission into a hospital; should he die, a notice is transmitted to his friends, who are at liberty to remove and bury the body on the payment of a small sum proportionate to the time of treatment; —but should they not apply in twentyfour hours, the body is then consigned to the dissecting room. —Some idea of the number of the subjects which are thus disposed of, may be formed from this consideration—that not onefourth of those who die in the hospitals of Paris are claimed by their friends. Such as are not, become the property of the Administration des Hôpitaux, and are disposed of by this body, for the benefit of the establishment; and thus the painful necessity of prosecuting anatomy at the risk of daily exposure is effectually prevented.

HYDATIDS.

Case in which numerous Hydatids were found in the cancellated Structure of the Tibia.

Elizabeth Stanhope, an unhealthy looking woman, 35 years of age, was admitted into Winchester Hospital, under the care of Mr. W. Wickham. It appeared from the patient's statement, that about six years before, she struck the fore part of the left tibia with a sickle, and that soon afterwards a swelling made its appearance at the injured part;

which swelling gradually, though slowly, increased till it attained the size of a hen's egg. When this tumor began to form, she could distinguish a slight indentation or depression in the bone, which afterwards became more perceptible ; that is, the bone seemed to be more and more absorbed as the swelling increased. About ten weeks prior to admission, she was walking in Stratton park, when her attention being suddenly arrested by a noise, she hastily turned round to ascertain the cause, and in doing so, her right foot slipped. In drawing up the left leg, in order to balance herself, it snapped at the point where the indentation had been felt, and she fell down immediately. She was picked up, and conveyed to her home ; the fracture was put up in the usual manner, and the patient remained under the treatment of a private practitioner three weeks ; at the expiration of which time, finding that no attempt at union had been made, it was thought proper to send the case to the Hospital. There was considerable pain felt in the part, for a few days after the occurrence of the accident, but it gradually subsided, and at the time of admission was comparatively trifling.

On examining the part, the fractured ends of the bone were readily distinguished, and between these there was an indistinct sense of fluctuation communicated to the fingers on pressing the integuments. It was considered doubtful if any union had taken place, and if so, it was supposed to be very slight. The patient's general health was reported to be better than at the time when the accident happened. The pulse was

of moderate firmness : the bowels regular, and the appetite good.

A consultation of the surgeons was held on the case, and it was determined that the diseased portions of bone should be removed.

The operation was performed on the 8th of January, Mr. Wickham commenced by making an incision six inches in length over the fore part of the tibia. On cutting over the tumor, a number of hydatids escaped, and when the diseased portions of bone were removed, it was found that the cancellated structure was entirely filled with hydatids, which were easily scraped out. The largest hydatid was of the size of a nutmeg, and the smallest about the size of a pin's head. A tent of lint was introduced, and over it a piece of simple dressing was applied, and the limb was enveloped in a manytailed bandage ; splints were also used.

On the following day after the operation, Jan. 9, the report made was as follows :—The patient has not slept well during the night, but is free from any febrile excitement. The limb is easy. Ordered nitric acid wash, with poultices to the sore.

11. A portion of the tent removed ; the surface of the wound looking healthy. The patient has now slight febrile excitement ; she took yesterday a dose of castor oil. Continues the acid wash and poultice.

13. The tent has now entirely come out with the poultice ; the sore has a healthy appearance. She states that her health is better than it has been for some years past ; the fever has completely abated. The poultices are discontinued, and the acid wash with the bandage alone used.

16. Healthy granulations are now rising from the surface of the bone. The discharge from the sore is of a healthy character. Ordered to take *thirty minimis of the solution of the muriate of lime*, three times a day.

19. The sore continues to improve, but the patient complains of much pain in the leg. As the solution of muriate of lime occasions griping pains, it is discontinued.

22—30. Going on well ; the wound covered with healthy granulations. The acid wash and bandage are continued.

Feb. 8—16. The sore has materially lessened.

March 21. The improvement of late has been very slow ; the wound, however, does certainly continue to heal.

April 22. The leg is now rapidly getting better, but it is still kept in splints. The patient can walk with crutches, and goes into the garden when the weather permits.

The patient left the Hospital in the latter end of May, at her own request ; the sore then nearly well. It was reported that the leg afterwards became much worse, but the patient did not come back to the Hospital.—*The Lancet.*

CANCER.

Extraordinary prevalence of Cancer in certain districts of Sussex, near to Tunbridge Wells, Eng.

DR. FORSTER, of Hartfield, Tunbridge Wells, has of late observed, and has communicated to us, the very extraordinary prevalence of cancerous diseases in certain districts of Sussex, not far distant from the above place. In the small parish of Hartfield, he has

seen six or seven decided cases during the course of his practice in that neighborhood, now only of about six years standing, and observed, that if he were to include such only of the neighboring villages and hamlets whose conjoint population should amount to 2500 persons, he could enumerate fifteen cases of distinct cancer that have fallen under his notice within the abovementioned period. This is a very large proportion, but the list would be greatly swelled if Dr. Forster were to include cancers of the lips, and also certain malignant tumors closely resembling cancer. The cases have in general been cancers of the breast, frequently extending to the axilla, and sometimes appearing both in the mammary gland, and in the axilla, at once. Five operations have been performed, and all of them *successfully*, by the surgeon of the village of Hartfield. The diseases have, in every respect, resembled cancers in general ; and on consultation it has always been found expedient to remove them. They have been removed in various stages of the disease, with manifest success. Dr. Forster has not only paid attention to the nature of the diseases, so as to identify them as cancers, but has promoted and followed up an inquiry into the particular constitution, diet, and habit of the patients, without being able to discover anything particular that could lead to the cause of an unhealthy diathesis. Moreover, there are certain neighboring districts wherein this disease is very rare, particularly those places laying nearer to Rottingden and Brighton, and on the sea coast in general. They are most com-

mon on the clay soils covered with marl, as Hartfield, Urthyam, Cowden; and are more rare at Uckfield, Houthly, and hence to the Downs. In order to compare cancer with other diseases, the Doctor has ascertained cases of stone to be remarkably rare here, while in Norfolk they are excessively numerous. Inflammations and tumor of the glandular system in general, deafness from obliteration of the Eustachian tube, and apoplexy, are rather to be considered of frequent occurrence in the district alluded to. And it is a remarkable fact, that the *cancer scroti* of chimney sweepers, as well as destructive sclerocele of the testes, have occurred more frequently than we should feel warranted from hospital experience to expect in an equal number of persons in the neighborhood of London. This subject is sufficiently important and interesting to justify our endeavor to call it into more general notice, and to excite the collateral observations of practitioners in other counties.—*Ib.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the London *Mechanic's Magazine*.

EYES versus SMALL TYPE.

Sir,—The announcement in your last number of Constable's Miscellany, must give pleasure to all those who wish well to their species. The objectors to the general dissemination of knowledge are silenced, if they are not annihilated. It appears to me, however, that one caution is particularly necessary to those who endeavor to make science accessible to all classes, by means of cheap editions,—that while they strengthen the head, they do not

weaken the eyes. I am unfortunately one of those who have "spectacles on nose" before my time; and it has been with considerable terror, that I have beheld the various avenues to knowledge gradually closing on me, by the decreasing size of the type generally used.—I leave it to my physician to say, whether the *typ-hous* fever with which I have been afflicted, had its origin from this cause; but of the serious injury which small print inflicts on the eyes, there can be no doubt; the injury is the more to be dreaded, as its effect is not perceived till it is past remedy. The time usually devoted to reading, among the middle, and lower ranks of life, is the evening; this magnifies the evil, but not the type, and the poor devil,—not the printer's,—who has been all day "sucking his sustenance through a quill," or flattening his haunches on a board, sits with his "cheap edition," making it revolve like a satellite round his candle, in hopes that every new position will show it in a better light. Why sacrifice utility to form? let the margin be decreased, but do not pigmitize the type. Why should a great proportion of every book be made merely for the benefit of the binder's shaving tub? A large margin is only useful, where marginal notes are to be made. A few years would reconcile us to the alteration in appearance, and a permanent benefit would be established. Let your type so shine among men, that they, seeing your *good works*, may have the knowledge of Milton, without his personal misfortune. I am, &c.

T. B.

We think quite as unfavorably of small type as T. B., and doubt not it

has done, and is doing, all the mischief he ascribes to it. If the reader's sight is good, why should he not take all reasonable pains to preserve it? if bad, why not endeavor to prevent making it worse? Till these questions can be fairly answered in the negative, we take the liberty of advising no one, young or old, male or female, with strong sight or weak, clear eyes or blurred, ever to permit himself to use a type smaller than brevier, and the more rarely the better, any type smaller than small pica, which is used in the preceding article.

MENTAL INDEPENDENCE.

Mr. Owen dates his New Harmony Gazette in the 51st year of *political*, and the first year of *mental* independence. We were struck with the following events and occurrences, which presented themselves in half a day's promiscuous reading, as connected with the idea of mental independence:—

Smallpox in Philadelphia.—Several deaths have lately taken place by the smallpox in Philadelphia. An address to the citizens, urging the importance of immediate vaccination, has been published.

Smallpox.—We regret to learn from Capt. Smack, of the schooner Resolution, that the smallpox prevails to an alarming degree at Snowhill, Md. Upwards of one hundred and twenty persons are afflicted with this loathsome disease, and about thirty have fallen victims to it.—*Norfolk Beacon.*

Here is no evidence that the public mind is above the influence of prejudice, or indifference, even in matters of vital importance.

Powwowing.—The Philadelphia Gazette states that a poor man, in the western part of that city, who stepped into a kettle of boiling lie on Saturday week, has died of his burns, after lingering for seven or eight days, in great agonies. His friends would not call in a regular physician, placing entire dependence on the skill of a practitioner of *powwow*, whom they found in the Almshouse!—We have heard of Steam doctors, Indian doctors, and Verb doctors, and we know that some of them, or, at least, of the former, had operated in different parts of the country, to the frequent injury of health, and even the occasional destruction of life; but we were totally ignorant of the existence of the Faculty of Powwow, till informed of it by the Gazette.

The editors of the Philadelphia Gazette, since giving their account of the Powwow doctors a few days ago, have been informed that *powwowing* is not the only remnant of popular superstitions in that city, as there is at this moment a *witch doctor* of repute, residing in the Northern Liberties. A short time since a sick child was tampered with by this practitioner to a fatal termination. Are there no interdicts against these mountebanks in our sister city?

Here is no proof that the public mind is independent of the influence of ignorance, or superstition.

Mrs. Barton, of Cheshire, Ms., hung herself with a skein of yarn on the 6th inst. in a fit of derangement produced by religious excitement. She has left a husband and three children.

This and similar cases are surely no proof that reason is duly respected and enlightened, or that religion, in all cases, is taught and received in the proper manner.

We think Mr. Owen is a little too fast in assuming the existence of mental independence, even for our own *free, enlightened, and pure country*. Some evidence yet remains that we are not quite independent of the existence and effects of ignorance, passion, unprincipled selfishness, and a misjudging preference of trifling, present, and temporary gratifications,—to infinitely greater, and future good, and merely because it is future and more distant.

FORMULA FOR PREPARING BICHLORIDE OF LIME.

As this chloride, besides its use in bleaching, is of great importance as a disinfecter, applicable to the preservation of bodies before burial, or intended for dissection, the restoring of putrid bodies for medico-legal investigations, correcting the fetor of sinks and privies, and, above all, the disinfecting of hospitals and lazarettos, it may serve a useful purpose to give the formula for its preparation, lately published by Labarraque in the *Journal de Chimie Médicale*. Place slaked lime, mixed with about a twentieth of common salt, in a tall earthenware pot. Let the beak of the retort containing the materials, be fitted to an opening in the side of the pot, on the same level with its bottom. Disengage the chlorine from a mixture of 576 parts of common salt, and 448 parts of peroxide of manganese, by means of sulphuric acid, diluted with three-fourths of its weight of water. Add the acid by degrees, by means of

an S tube.—*Edin. Med. and Surg. Journal.*

SEMEIOLOGY.

Mediate Percussion.

M. Pierry has lately invented an instrument which he calls a *pleximetre*, for the purpose of detecting the pathological states of the viscera in the thorax and abdomen. He pretends that by means of it, he has been able to pronounce most accurately how much liquid has been thrown out into the cavities of the pleura, whether or not there are miliary tubercles, and in what state the hepatisation exists. The instrument is made of a piece of ivory, and the conclusions are drawn from the sound that is emitted from the thorax, when it is struck. We are promised a work on this new instrument.—*Lancet.*

Dr. Zimmerman, of Germany, has discovered a mode of exploding firearms, by which they can never go off, by accident or carelessness, but by the will of the person alone who uses them. When he has secured a patent, he will detail the particulars of his invention.

A SAFE ANSWER.

A person who suspected that a minister of his acquaintance was not truly a Calvinist, went to him and said, "Sir, I am told that you are against the perseverance of the saints." "Not I," answered he, "it is the perseverance of sinners that I oppose." "But this is not a satisfactory answer, sir. Do you think that a child of God cannot fall very low and yet be restored?" He replied, "I think it will be very dangerous to make the experiment."

BOSTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1827.

BEDS AND BEDSTEADS.

There is not a single article of furniture in a house, which if good, contributes so much to the comfort and refreshment of the family, as the bed. It is therefore to be regretted that from the influence of habit and fashion, the bed is so rarely fitted to secure the soothing and invigorating effects which it might be made to produce. As it is now constructed, it frequently produces languor and restlessness, instead of refreshment and repose. The bedstead has high posts and curtains, and is covered with feathers; the curtains deprive the sleeper of fresh air, and the feathers, like false friends, surround, incommod, and exhaust one while he trusts them, but desert him most at the very point of pressure, where support is most needed.

Whoever wishes to possess a rational couch for sleep, should first provide himself with a proper bedstead; and the best support of the recumbent body which science has yet devised, is Adams' bedstead, advertised in this day's Intelligencer. It is neat, strong, and portable,—easily put up and taken down. By means of the swelled beam, lever, and ratchet wheel, the sacking bottom is easily kept tight, and most tight and level where the incumbent weight is the greatest. This we have never seen done by any other contrivance.—The next best bedstead, is one made like this, excepting the sacking, in place of which it has slats, or slips of some elastic wood, as pine, &c.

And here it is proper to remark,

in the first place, that the want of feathers is altogether artificial, arising from a disregard of the physical and moral wellbeing of infants and children,—and he who has had the good fortune never to have been accustomed to a feather bed, will never in health need, or desire one, nor in sickness, excepting in cases of great morbid irritation, or excessive sensibility, or some local disease in which the pressure of a firm or elastic substance might occasion pain. But when a rational regard to the preservation of health shall pervade the community, feathers will no more be used without necessity, or medical advice, than ardent spirit will be swallowed without the same necessity or advice. The physician has frequent occasion to see persons who are heated, sweated and enfeebled by sleeping on feathers,—rising in the morning, as if from a fit of sickness,—enervated, dispirited, relaxed and miserable.

But if feathers are to be discarded, what shall we substitute in their place? We answer, hair, cornhusks, and straw; either of which will be found superior to feathers, so soon as their good qualities shall be demonstrated by experiment. We feel a right to speak with some confidence on this subject, for we have slept soundly on straw, hay, on a mattress of tow, and on hair,—and have tossed, and tumbled, and not slept on feathers. Besides this, we have the decided testimony of an aged male and female invalid, and of others in health, in favor of the delightful, exhilarating, sleepinviting properties of a six or eight inch thick, well

made mattress of the husks of our own cornfields. The habits which lead to the confirmation and preservation of health, are as likely to become pleasant, as those which are so tenaciously held, though opposed to health. This is the natural reward which forms a part of the moral government of the Supreme Being, attendant on a right beginning and continuance in whatever relates to the improvement of our corporeal, intellectual, or moral nature.

Curtains, besides obliging the enveloped to breathe the same air six or eight times, which ought to pass through the lungs but once, have occasioned many human beings and human dwellings to be burnt; but who can testify that they ever did any good? So long as the body is duly covered, and protected, and warmed, who was ever injured by breathing a cool and fresh, or even a cold air? Why then resort to curtains?

One essential condition of good rest is the evenness, or levelness of the bed. What peasant, guided by instinct or experience, ever thought of lying down on the side of a steep acclivity in order to sleep? We have often been twisted, and strained, and kept awake from the rising sides of a feather bed, forsaking one in the centre, and swelling up like two bags of cotton, one on each side, to heat, confine, and annoy the prisoner. Neither a mattress of husks, of straw, nor of hair, will treat one in this inhospitable manner.

AN ERROR CORRECTED.

The publisher of the Philadelphia *Medical Recorder* charges us with

having transferred to our pages an article from his journal, without giving credit for it. To this we plead guilty, and hasten to offer such an explanation as, we hope, will induce Mr. Webster to pardon us. In truth, the omission happened both against our settled intention and general practice. It occurred too late for correction, in the first instance, and whenever the fault has recurred to our recollection since, it has always been attended with the purpose of doing an act of common justice. This, however, had not been executed in time to entitle us to the credit of having done it seasonably and spontaneously. The article alluded to is "An inquiry into the functions of the liver, &c." by Dr. Briggs, and which appeared in the *Medical Intelligencer* of April 3d. We thank the publisher of the *Recorder* for leave to copy from its pages by giving due credit; this is a privilege, not a right, and we receive it as such, and trust that it will be duly estimated and acknowledged in all future time.

DICTIONARY.

Accidents, used by Dr. Jackson as synonymous with symptoms.

Epigastrium, the region over the stomach.

Minim, a drop, or the sixtieth part of a drachm.

Pediluvium, a bath, generally a warm bath, for the feet.

Revulsion, produced by revulsives, is a drawing of the fluids in a contrary direction, or to another part.

Rectum, the lowest straight bowel; the termination of the intestinal canal, or tube.

Surirritation, a word here used for excessive, or morbid irritation.

Therapeutics, that branch of medical science which treats of the different means employed for curing diseases, and of the application of these means.

Tibia, the largest anterior bone of the leg.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

A NEW EDITION OF
THACHER'S MILITARY JOURNAL
 OF THE
 AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

COTONS & BARNARD have just published, A MILITARY JOURNAL DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR, from 1775 to 1783 ; describing interesting events and Transactions of this period ; with numerous Historical Facts and Anecdotes, from the Original Manuscript. To which is added an Appendix, containing Biographical Sketches, of several General Officers. By JAMES THACHER, M. D. late Surgeon in the American Army. Second Edition, Revised and Corrected.

"As Americans we hail with delight any attempt to rescue from oblivion the words or actions of those whose names we have been taught to revere."

April 10.

ADAMS' PATENT, SWELLED BEAM BEDSTEAD.

Made at 422, Washington St. Boston.

IT has neither screw nor lacing, and may be taken down or put up in one minute. It gives the luxury of a sacking as tight as a drumhead. The price of this bedstead is no greater, with all its improvements, than the heavy, cumbersome, old-fashioned ones.—This foundation of tranquillity and repose,—this illustration of neatness, taste and economy, may be seen at all hours of the day, as above.

April 24.

GREAT TRUSS MANUFACTORY.

J. P. WHITWELL, Druggist, corner of Milk and Kilby Streets, has in his employment one of the first artists and most ingenious mechanics in the United States, for the purpose of manufacturing Trusses. At this great depository may be found every sort of Truss, manufactured either in Europe or America, made in the most elegant style, and warranted to accomplish every object which a good Truss can effect. To medical men it is needless to state the important advantages which arise from having the instrument well adapted to the part to be re-

lieved. Here the patient, if unable to suit himself with those on hand, may have one made agreeably to the exact measurement of his body.

French Elastic Catheters.

Just received, from France, a few gross of the most approved Catheters, used by the first physicians and surgeons in the French metropolis ; they are sold at a very low rate.

Bay Rum.

A few dozen bottles of this excellent embrocation in cases of hysterical and nervous affections, &c.

Also, Whitwell's Original and Genuine Liquid Opodeldoc.

April, 1827.

THE NORTH AMERICAN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL,

IS published quarterly, in numbers containing about 200 pages each, on the first day of January, April, July, and October. Price five dollars a year, payable in advance. Hilliard, Gray, & Co. Agents, Boston.

THE STUDY OF MEDICINE. By John Mason Good. In five volumes. Fourth American Edition. Reprinted from the last London edition. Greatly improved and enlarged. Lately published, and for sale by Wells & Lilly.

AVAPOR or SULPHUR BATH can be had at any proper hour of the day, at 3, Central Court. The proper hours are before breakfast, dinner, and tea. The best time is between 11 and 2 o'clock.

A portable bath may be taken to the patient's house, if ordered by the attending physician, and administered under his direction.

HOOPER'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY.

LEXICON MEDICUM ; or Medical Dictionary ; containing an Explanation of the Terms in Anatomy, Botany, Chemistry, Materia Medica, Midwifery, Mineralogy, Pharmacy, Physiology, Practice of Physic, Surgery, and the various branches of Natural Philosophy connected with Medicine. Selected, arranged and compiled from the best authors. By Robert Hooper, M.D. F.L.S. The fourth American, from the fifth London edition, very considerably enlarged. For sale by Wells & Lilly.

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, *in no case*, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M.D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1827.

NO. 50.

Observations on the Utility and Administration of Purgative Medicines in several Diseases. By JAMES HAMILTON, M.D. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, &c. &c. Eighth Edition, revised and improved by the Author, with a Chapter on Cold Bathing, considered in its Purgative Effect. 8vo. pp. 381. Edinburgh and London. 1826.

UPWARDS of twenty years have elapsed since this work was first presented to the profession, and the number of editions it has passed through is sufficient proof that it has been held in great estimation, and of the extended circulation it has received; so that any analysis of its contents would, at this period, be of little avail or purpose. Yet we have observed that the practice of this veteran author has, sometimes, been carried to a dangerous length by persons who have imperfectly digested his book, or failed to consult preceding authorities; and we therefore recommend it to the diligent perusal of such of our readers, and they must be very few, who have not profited by its contents. The student will find that purgatives are commended in typhus, in scarlatina, hematemesis, hysteria, chorea, and tetanus, in all of which their utility is supported by numerous cases. In go-

ing round the hospitals he will observe, how very ardently and extensively the practice is followed by the physicians of this metropolis; but he will also discover, that fuller and more frequent purgations than Dr. Hamilton advocates are much in vogue, particularly in the worst stages of typhous and other asthenic fevers; hence the "follicular ulcerations," and other morbid changes which are too often found on dissection. Practitioners do not appear to consider the many ways in which drastic purges, which are far too much in fashion, and too frequently employed, may prove injurious. They do not consider how much the circulation is quickened by mercurial and other purgatives, nor that the increased momentum must be lost somewhere, and that most probably on the part which is the least able to bear it. The increased action of the mesenteric and branches of the cœliac arteries thus induced, is often sufficient to account for all the disastrous circumstances which usher in the fatal termination of typhus, and the appearances which the belly exhibits afterwards. The circulation is hurried; and the vessels of a part rendered proclive to disease by the worry and disturbance of frequent purges, becoming over distended, must needs be unloaded; and hence the foul matter and

slime, and God knows what besides, except feces, which are supposed to block up the intestines in fever, but which in reality are often produced, to say nothing of organic mischief, by the purgative system, too often inculcated and too rigidly employed, instead of the eccoproctics or hypocatharses and clysters, which formerly answered every useful purpose of evacuating the contents of the intestines, without imposing on their coats, their glands, and their bloodvessels, actions which are seldom compatible with their wellbeing, or with the recovery of the patient. Dr. Freind, no mean authority, by the by, in his 7th Commentary on the Epidemics of Hippocrates, informs us, that the doctrine of purging in fevers is so abstruse, that he declines laying down any general rules on the subject; and Sydenham, in his *Schedula Monitoria*, says he did not dare to give a purge in the fever of 1673, but "persisted in the use of glysters, knowing that purging medicines used at that time presently caused a coma;" nor is it at all improbable, since the increased momentum may fall on the brain as well as any other part. In his intercurrent fevers, the same illustrious physician found clysters and the simplest laxatives answer every purpose. Except at the commencement of a fever, what can possibly be gained by the scruple doses of calomel, the half drachms of jalap, or colycynth pills, with one cup after another of haustus sennæ, more than by moderate doses of castor oil, or other lenitives, which are sufficient to keep the body soluble? Must the liver be stimulated with calomel to secrete ten times its

natural quantity of bile, or the intestines with purgatives, to throw out their volumes of "horrible stuff," for the cure of a fever? Or is it not empiricism of the worst and most dangerous character?

So overwhelming has the influence of purgatives become, that they bid fair to establish to themselves a monarchy paramount alike over the diseases of the infant, the adult, and the aged;—over increased excitement, when life is exuberant, and diminished excitement, when its "taper faintly glows;" in short, over all the grades which the human frame is susceptible of, between the cradle and the grave! But Dr. Hamilton is not the advocate for purging which some have supposed, even in the disorders,—chorea, chlorosis,—most likely to be benefited by it. He speaks of "purgatives," but in a great proportion of his cases he merely employed laxatives and clysters,—and very few evince much active purging. Chorea has undoubtedly been cured, though we cannot say often, by purgatives alone; hematemesis less frequently, and tetanus, as we believe, still more rarely. We desire, therefore, to give this class of medicines all the credit they deserve, without making them specifics, which they certainly are not, in a great variety of diseases. How is it possible, the bowels being once cleared out and kept clear, that purgatives can cure many cases of chorea, for example, except by the stimulus which they communicate to the system at large, rather than the belly in particular? And if this be their *modus medendi*, is not the practice of giving repeated purges a very

roundabout one, if successful ; empirical always, and not unfrequently hazardous and injurious ? We have reason to believe that it is ; and we are quite sure that we are not unfriendly to "purgative medicines" judiciously employed, nor to the able author whose work has contributed so much to extend their "utility," and we may add, though the fault is not his, their abuse.—*Lancet.*

SOFTNESS OF THE BONES.

In the Transactions of the MedicoChirurgical Society of Edinburgh, vol. 2, 1826, is a very interesting case of softness of the bones, communicated by John Howship, Esq., London. It occurred in the person of an unmarried female, aged 35, of delicate constitution. After a visit to Paris of two months, during which time she slept in cold chambers and put on damp linen, her catamenia ceased. When she returned, it was observed, that "she walked rather stooping, and in a rolling manner;" this state of things progressed. She used as a tea, a decoction of oak bark, her catamenia became regular for a year, still she declined, appetite indifferent, gait unimproved; mercurials were employed with manifest disadvantage ;—caught cold, cough induced violent pain in the hip ; when walking, afraid to touch the right toe against the slightest impediment, as it gave so great a shock as to endanger her falling ; after using the warm sea bath twice a week for two months, "surprisingly better ;" on her return, symptoms reappeared ; a seton inserted for an incipient curvature of the spine ; pain in the right hip excruciating, much weakened by the

seton which was kept open for five months—confined to the horizontal position. One night on being carried to bed, the right thigh gave way, and became unnaturally bent, "like an elbow ;" cramps and spasms of the muscles surrounding the part, limb straightened and secured in pasteboard splints. One month after, the left thigh, which had been very painful for several days previous, appeared to break, and was set in splints ; nervous and irritable in the extreme, so much so, that the gentle friction of a handkerchief over the face induced painful spasms of the limb ; this also sometimes occurred when deglutition was attempted ; directed decoction of cinchona six ounces, compound tincture of cinchona six drachms, sulphate of magnesia three drachms, mix ; take two tablespoonfuls every six hours ; left arm painful and weak ; pulse ninety, weak, though fuller than before ; digestion improved ; urine loaded with albuminous matter which formed a sediment on cooling ; power of assisting herself greater than for a long period previous, pains less ; she can now converse respecting her symptoms, though before this the bare mention of her complaint brought on spasms and severe pains of the bones ; appetite impaired from constipation ; bark mixture continued with an increased proportion of Epsom salt relieved her ; pulse soft, seventytwo ; tongue clean, skin moist and relaxed, so that she was sometimes suddenly bathed in profuse perspiration ; directed cinchona seven ounces, compound tincture of the same, six drachms, extract of cinchona with resin, half a drachm ; take three tablespoonfuls twice aday ;

to this was added diluted sulphuric acid two drachms and a half, Epsom salt three ; the sulphuric acid was subsequently omitted, as it aggravated the symptoms and produced pain in the stomach. On passing the finger along the integuments of the thigh while inspecting the state of the dressings, "large drops of perspiration were immediately seen to start out along the lines and there only;" this was often repeated with the same results ; the secreted fluid was possessed of a strong, unpleasant, and unusual odor ; in reapplying the dressings, the operation of adjusting the left thigh excited uneasiness in the right, and vice versa, while no distress was felt in the limb under adjustment ! The arms and one leg were now fomented with warm brine daily ; she frequently described a peculiar pain in each femur, "as if a string was tied tight round the middle of the bone ;" this sensation became now slight and transitory, and the spasms milder ; caught cold, which was attended with an aggravation of all the symptoms. Thus she continued sometimes better and at others worse, till finally she sunk exhausted by irritation and debility, previous to which she voided bloody stools. The duration of the disease extended almost to six years. "One of the most remarkable features in its history was the relief afforded by sea air and sea bathing," and Mr. H. observes, "I feel convinced that had the patient remained twelve or eighteen months at the sea side, she would have returned home perfectly cured." The appearances on dissection were remarkable. The periosteum of the left femur

was apparently filled with some soft or fluid matter ; on dividing it "the contents appeared to be a red pulpy or fleshy matter, in some parts much resembling liver, in one place much softer, in another of a grumous consistence like blood ;" the whole femur was divided longitudinally by the knife, which encountered no trace of ossific matter in the cylindrical portion ; towards each end were perceived some scattered spiculae of bone, or a thin external lamina like an eggshell. On inspection, it appeared that the disease was the result of "a morbid action of the capillary arteries on the medullary membrane within the bone."

A very singular circumstance respecting the periosteum was, that "in the point to which, during life, the peculiar sense of stricture had been referred, a stricture actually existed, as though a ligature was tied round this membrane!" The right femur in every particular resembled the left ; the lower parts of the tibiae were cut through with ease, but their middle parts resisted the knife ; the bones of the pelvis admitted also of being cut through at pleasure, in like manner with the dorsal and lumbar vertebræ, ribs and sternum ; the bones of the inferior extremities and the cranium resisted the knife; all the viscera were sound.

Med. Recorder.

The probable and sufficient cause of all this suffering and premature death, was sleeping in cold chambers and putting on damp linen ! Though this lady was 35 years old, she had not yet arrived at the years of discretion. This case, with others, show how little attention is paid, as

a part of education, to the improvement and preservation of the animal system, as if this was hardly worth notice in the cultivation and success of the human being.

From the London *Literary Gazette*.

MEDICAL ESSAYS.—NO. I.

“First the infant,
Mewling and puking in the nurse’s arms.”

Shakspeare.

Whoever is desirous of promulgating a doctrine not in unison with the preconceived opinions or with the prejudices of the world, must first himself be satisfied of its truth; without this conviction, he can never assume that commanding deportment which is requisite to withstand those attacks that self-love, and many feelings deeply rooted by education, fostered by vanity, and strengthened by habit, always oppose to every innovation. He should also be prepared to prove that his opinions are not the offspring of mere speculation, the flashes of a kindled imagination, but the result of observation guided by knowledge and confirmed by experience; and lastly, he must not only arm himself with patience to hear every objection, and to examine its merits impartially, but with candor also to acknowledge error, and with generosity to avow a defeat.

The author of the ensuing series of Medical Essays considers himself called on to lay these axioms before his readers at the commencement of his task, to demonstrate that he is fully aware of the importance of the character which he has assumed; that he has not inconsiderately invested himself with the robe of the teacher; nor proffered himself unprepared to maintain the truth of his precepts. Though the shade

which involves him, in common with every anonymous writer, might enable him to hazard opinions without the dread of responsibility, yet he has no wish to cover himself with such a shield, and hesitates not to declare his readiness to defend, in his proper person should it be requisite, every consequence that may follow an adherence to his advice. In assuring his readers that he is a regular physician, has passed the meridian of life, and expended more than half of the term of years already allotted to him in the study and practice of his profession, he does not mean to boast how far he has profited by the opportunities of improvement which have been afforded to him; but humbly to hope that these shall be thought at least sufficient to have familiarized him with the accidents which impede the equal flow of the current of life; to entitle him to some confidence as a pilot amidst its shoals and quick-sands; and to obtain for him the serious attention of those whom he addresses. The subject, indeed, might of itself command consideration, were men as deliberate and thoughtful regarding the preservation of health as of fortune; or were they as anxious to fly from sickness as from poverty. And yet, to quote the language of our great moralist,— “such is the power of health, that without its cooperation every other comfort is torpid and lifeless, as the powers of vegetation without the sun.”*

It may be affirmed that man is born in a state of perfect health; for though an hereditary predisposition renders some individuals

more susceptible than others to peculiar diseases, yet, when the corporeal organization is complete, and the degree of vitality sufficient to actuate the machinery of the human frame, an infant thus constituted and endowed cannot be regarded in any other state than that of health. If it be the intention of Providence, as there is every reason to believe, that the animal body should be capable of resisting with impunity the impressions of heat, cold, light, air, and all the other external agents of the world into which it is ushered at birth, it may be demanded, why this primitive state of health cannot be maintained? The cause is obvious—the artificial circumstances in which society have placed the human race;—and as mankind are acquainted with no state of existence in which these circumstances do not operate, reason teaches that means should be taken to obviate their baneful influence. But, instead of listening to the dictates of reason,—rather than make himself acquainted with the nature of his constitution, and study to preserve it in health and vigor,—man too often yields himself up to the government of ignorance and presumption; the first moment even in which he draws breath sees him placed under the control of individuals totally inadequate to the important charge of preserving the infant constitution in its original state, and aiding its progress to maturity. In support of this general remark, let us trace the management of the infant from its birth, and examine how far its dress, its food, its exercise, and its education, as generally adopted in this country, are calculated to promote the growth and health

of the body, and to unfold, in accordance with these, the faculties of the mind.

Dress.—No sooner is an infant born and placed in the hands of the nurse, frequently an individual who has taken on herself the office she holds because age has unfitted her for every other occupation, than it is clothed in a manner materially to oppress and interrupt the functions of life. The body is first rolled in several yards of flannel bandage, the tightness of which is regulated by the discretion of the nurse; over this is placed a shirt, with sleeves, then a body or soft stays, to which is attached a petticoat; and, lastly, a gown or frock, furnished also with sleeves. The head is covered with one or more caps, the outermost of which, generally ornamented with a profusion of lace, is kept on with a strap or tapes applied under the chin. I must contend, that such a mode of clothing an infant as is generally adopted, at so early an age, is inconsistent with the comfort of the child, injurious to health, and in every respect irrational. I am, however, ready to admit, that this mode of dressing a child is highly rational, compared with the custom of swathing still practised in some parts of Europe; but, because English women are now too enlightened to permit a babe to be bandaged into the similitude of an Egyptian mummy, and bound down on a board, are they to remain insensible to any further improvement? Certainly not; and I appeal to their good sense and maternal feeling, whether it be not of more importance to appropriate the clothing, both as regards quality and form, to the nature of the child's habit in th-

first month, at least, of its life, than to torture it by adorning it as a block, to exhibit to advantage the work of the milliner and the lace maker. How, then, I hear many a mother anxiously inquiring, is an infant to be clothed? I will endeavor to instruct her; and if she closes her ears against the foolish remarks of the nurse, and listens without prejudice, I have little doubt of being able to convince her of the propriety of my plan.

All that a child requires, so far as regards clothing in the first month of its existence, is a simple covering for the trunk and extremities of the body, made of a material soft and agreeable to the skin, and which can retain, in an equable degree, the animal temperature. These qualities are to be found in perfection in fine flannel; and I recommend that the only clothing, for the first month or six weeks, be a square piece of flannel, large enough to involve fully, and overlapping the whole of the babe, with the exception of the head, which for reasons which I shall presently state, should be left totally uncovered. This wrapper should be fixed by a button near the breast, and left so loose as to permit the arms and legs to be freely stretched and moved in every direction. It should be succeeded by a loose flannel gown, with sleeves, which should be worn till the end of the second month; after which, this may be changed to the common clothing used for children of this age. Whoever adopts this form of dress, will be gratified by observing the easy, unrestrained movements of the infant; and shall escape the misery of hearing the screams which

now always accompany the operation of dressing and undressing every child. No chafings from friction can possibly occur; and the insensible perspiration being promoted over the whole body, the sympathy between the stomach and skin is maintained in such a state as to promote the healthy function of the former, and, consequently, to preserve the latter from the attack of eruptions, depending on a depraved digestion, not less than on checked perspiration. It is, indeed, distressing to observe the manner in which the chests and arms of very young children are exposed, and the suffering, in cold weather, to which this custom subjects them, even when it is productive of no greater evil.

As I strenuously recommend the preservation of the warmth of the trunk and of the extremities, it is natural to inquire why the head is to be left uncovered? To explain this apparent inconsistency, it is proper to inform my readers that the head is the part of the child most perfected, and more freely supplied with blood than the extremities,—a circumstance depending on the mode in which the child is furnished with the maternal blood before birth, and the fetal circulation. Though this determination of blood to the head be natural, and productive of no bad consequence in a healthy infant, yet it renders the head more susceptible of diseases of excitement and increased circulation of the blood, than other parts of the infantile body, and thence the greater frequency of inflammation of the membranes of the brain, and of its sequel—water in the head—in infancy than at any future period of life. The head,

therefore, requires to be less clothed than the trunk and extremities ; and, experience has confirmed the benefit to be expected from leaving it altogether without a cap, or any other covering, except when the child is carried into the open air ; and then the bonnet or hat employed should be formed of the lightest and least heating materials. By attending to these rules, and leaving uncovered the heads of infants, and washing them daily with cold water, and at the same time regulating the diet, and keeping the bowels open, children strongly predisposed to water in the head have escaped this disease, though others of the same family, with whom these precautions were not observed, have fallen the victims of its attacks. But the recommendation of this practice is making a powerful assault on the prejudices of both the mother and the nurse ; and it is amusing to remark the obstacles which oppose its adoption, when it is urged by the physician. At the first mention of it, the look of amazement of the mother is reflected by a glance of still greater astonishment from the nurse, who, while she appears to be busy with the affairs of the room, is listening eagerly to the monstrous doctrine, ever and anon casting a look of extreme contempt on the speaker, and smothering the wrath which is ready to burst forth on his counsel the moment he leaves the apartment. "Did you ever hear the like of that ? To make a fool of the little dear ! No, no, ma'am ! I know better. No baby that comes through my hands shall never be so treated. Without a cap, forsooth ! I wonders, indeed, what he would do with the open

of the head ? Perhaps he would not put a piece of flannel on that neither; I always puts two pieces. What would people say to see the poor child so served ;—and all these beautiful caps, in which he looks so handsome, to be thrown aside ? What would Lady *Busybody* and Mrs. *Lackwit*, and all the genteel ladies that visits you, dear ma'am, say ? Poor child ! you shan't be treated so ! Bless his pretty face !" The idea of being the object of criticism, and the dread of appearing singular, are at all times powerful motives against any attempt to walk out of the beaten track ; and when these are backed by longfostered prejudices, it is not wonderful that mothers are shaken in their resolution to follow the advice of the physician in this matter, even when they are convinced that it is right ; but when they believe that the nurse's experience is paramount to what they consider the theory of the doctor, the decision is soon given ; and, till disease makes its attack, the infant is produced as an instance of the sagacity of the nurse, and of the good taste of the mother. If there were, however, no other reason for disusing caps for infants but the improvement which it produces in the look of the child, I would maintain that this is a sufficient inducement. Nothing but custom can reconcile us to the cap, with all its lace and trumpery ornaments, on the beautiful head of a child ; and I would ask any one to say candidly, whether they think the children in the pictures of Titian and Raffaelle, would be improved by having their heads covered with caps, instead of the silken curls, the adornment of nature, which cluster round

their smiling faces. With regard to the neverfailing argument, founded on the necessity of covering the opening of the head, it may be proper to inform our fair readers, that this is not a defect in the head of the child, nor a part which requires more covering than the other parts of the head, but that it is an admirable device of nature to facilitate the birth of the child, and to admit the rapid developement of the brain which occurs during infancy. As soon as ossification can take place with safety, bony matter is deposited on the edges of the bones in the vicinity of these fontanelles, or open parts, and these bones stretching forward till they meet, what was before only membrane becomes solid as the other parts of the skull. This process is not facilitated by any external covering, nor is it possible that cold, or any disease, can be communicated through these membranous parts of the skull, were they never to close. When the head is kept totally uncovered, the hair grows rapidly ; dandriff and other scurfy diseases rarely attack the scalp ; catarrhs, snuffles, and similar complaints, seldom show themselves; and the period of dentition, the most precarious in the life of an infant, passes without trouble. Another custom of nurses, that of laying children altogether under the bedclothes, so that the head and face are as much covered as the other parts of the body, cannot be too much reprobated. It renders the child much more susceptible of cold than it would otherwise be ; and many of the instances of thrush, and the lamentable cases of morbid snuffles, which sometimes occur, may be attributed to this custom.

As the child advances in age, and is capable of exercising its limbs, and especially after it can walk and run, the blood being then more freely circulated, and the animal heat more equally diffused over the body, the trunk and the extremities require less external warmth from clothing than in infancy. Still, however, the dress, whatever may be its fashion, should afford protection to the chest, to the improper exposure of which, in this changeable climate, many consumptive attacks may be traced. The clothing should also continue to be light and loose ; boys should be left in petticoats much longer than is customary ; and the trowsers now put on girls should be altogether discarded. In very young girls, also, stays, and all articles of attire which press unequally on parts of the body, and all ligatures and bandages, should be avoided; for instead of affording support to a weak frame, stays and bandages favor deformity. It is a curious but an undoubted fact, that the majority of deformed persons are of the female sex, a circumstance which probably is owing to the restraints in dress imposed on this part of the species, from the mistaken notion that the delicacy of their bodies requires artificial support. In proffering these remarks, it must not, however, be supposed that I am an enemy to dress ; on the contrary, if cleanliness be justly considered a virtue, an attention to neatness and elegance in attire, as having a considerable share in the formation of character, ought to be early inculcated; but these attributes of dress are not incompatible with warmth ; and, surely the primary object of clothing is to guard the body from

the impression of those atmospheric alterations which are likely to prove hurtful.

We have no doubt that many may imagine that the attention which I have recommended to dress in infancy, savors too much of the *labor ineptiarum*, "the toil of trifling cares." To those who think in this manner, I would reply, that much of the comfort of life depends on attention to trivial circumstances; and that, as a beam, when accurately balanced, is turned by a feather, so health may be lost by inattention to matters in themselves apparently the most insignificant. Bruce, the Abyssian traveller, after surviving a thousand dangers during his adventurous enterprise, fell a victim to carelessness, in descending a few steps at the threshold of his own dwelling.

T.

February 10, 1827.

With the caution of not applying cold water too early even to the head, and substituting cotton instead of flannel for the first material of the infant's dress in our warmer seasons, we think the above an admirable piece of reason and good sense, and full of instruction for all those mothers, nurses, and visiting friends, whose minds are sufficiently expanded, liberal, and independent to receive it.

Treatise on Repelling the Paroxysm of Intermittent Fever, illustrated with cases. By J. BROWN, M.D. &c., Boston, England, 1826. pp. 60.

THE principal object of this treatise, is to lay before the profession the writer's method of treating intermittent fever, which has at least the merit of novelty. He admin-

isters the sulphate of quinine, at the commencement of the *cold stage*; and it would appear, from his narratives of cases treated after this mode, that it is likely to prove more successful in the majority of instances, than the plan generally adopted; but of this, we shall speak more at large presently.

The treatise commences with a reference to the supposed causes of the existence of intermittents in the fenny district of Lincolnshire, where the author resides, since it has been drained. He finally attributes it principally to the source pointed out by Seg. Giorgini, to wit, a mingling of salt and fresh water. For a more particular notice of this gentleman's views, we must refer to our last number, page 184. Dr. B. observes, "I allude to the mixture of salt and fresh water, an ascertained source of infectious miasmata; this arises from two evident causes, from soakage, and the influx of the sea, at the flowing tide into fresh water channels. It is well known that the salt water, in dry seasons, penetrated far and wide, and in some places at a distance from the sea; and having no direct communication with it, that which remains in the ponds and ditches, is brackish, and totally unfit for use. It has been felt severely during this unusually dry summer, 1826, and the consequences are visible enough; for, since the middle of July, remittent and intermittent fevers have been making terrible ravages among the laboring people."

Under the head of *Employment of Remedies*, our author after noticing in a cursory manner the various means that have been employed from time immemorial to the present, during which he observes, that, the cure of intermittents has

almost uniformly been confined to the interval between the paroxysms, and, before their approach, laid aside ; proceeds to relate his own plan of treatment, to which we have before alluded. The case to which it was first applied, was on himself ; it is not necessary to follow him in his detail of an ordinary tertian. After using the sulphate of quinine in the customary way, by taking three grains every three hours during the day unavailingly, he was induced, from what cause he does not inform us, to take the quinine at the commencement of the paroxysm ; for the furtherance of its action, he took a strong laxative at night, and the next day about one o'clock, the attack showing indications of approach, he commenced with only two grains of the salt, intending to follow it up with a much larger dose antecedent to the shaking, if this were productive of no good ; but in a very few minutes, its effects became apparent. The shrinking of the surface, the dejection of spirits, the painful sensibility to cold, headache, and thirst, and all unpleasant feelings progressively subsided. His surprise was soon checked by a temporary disappointment ; after about half an hour's freedom from any sign of the cold stage, the attack returned ; but as the symptoms were not more violent than at first, the two grains only were repeated. He observes, "the result of the first rendered me more attentive to the action of the second, its influence over the rising symptoms became sensibly felt in a few minutes ; the pulse became more full and distinct, the respiration easy, the skin recovered its natural temperature, and in eleven minutes, not one unpleasant feeling remained." This state continued

but a short time ; in thirtyfive minutes, the symptoms returned again in their former order ; the quinine was repeated a third time in a two-grain dose, and having acquired some confidence in its powers, he hoped by steadily persevering in the same course, he could continue to repel, and ultimately to subdue it altogether.

This was accomplished after the fifth dose, "between which and the fourth there had been an interval of an hour and a half, leaving a slight glow of moisture on the surface."

Dr. B. then proceeds to detail thirtysix cases, comprehending a variety of conditions, whether of sex, age, or duration, and some of which were of several years' standing, in all of which his method proved successful with one exception ; he observes, "in this instance the evacuation had been omitted ; the promptness of which appearing to associate with the action of the quinine, I prescribed an aperient to precede this medicine, as in the former case, on the next attack ; but the man being obliged to leave the town, I remain ignorant of the result."

Another case is mentioned where the first six doses had produced no effect ; "the paroxysm had run through its course." The patient had taken the medicine *during the rigors*. "This," he observes, "was quite contrary to the directions given her, it being a uniform rule with me, to impress on the minds of parents, the necessity of suspending remedies, if they fail to keep back the shaking. A repetition of them, however, was attended with better consequences. By commencing earlier with the quinine, at the next return of the paroxysm, its effects were soon apparent over the rising symptoms ; and

repetitions, at seasonable intervals, suppressed the paroxysm, and she had no return afterwards."

In conclusion Dr. Brown makes some observations respecting "the propriety of suddenly removing intermittent fevers, particularly those of long duration."

Dr. FORDYCE was one of those physicians who retained this prejudice.

Dr. B. so far as we can gather from the text, is of the opinion that this may not only be safely done, but that the danger of organic lesions taking place demands it; in this opinion, we have no doubt that the most enlightened practitioners of the present day will heartily concur.—*Medical Recorder.*

EPILEPSY.

The following case of this disease was lately received into St. Thomas's Hospital, under the care of the liberal and scientific Dr. Elliotson.

G. B., a healthylooking boy, about ten years of age, had been subject to attacks of epilepsy, two or three times a day, for upwards of three months. He suddenly became blind, which continued three weeks, during which time he remained free from a fit, but on recurrence of the paroxysm he recovered his vision. Every attack was preceded by creeping sensation termed nervous aura, in both legs, commencing in the extremities of all the toes, and extending up the legs and thighs to the abdomen; and on meeting, as he described his sensations, at the upper part of the breastbone, he immediately fell down in an insensible state. Dr. Elliotson ordered half a grain of the ammoniated copper to be administered three times a day, and

a ligature to be immediately applied tightly round each thigh, on his experiencing the sensation in the toes, a practice which we have recommended, on the authority of a French writer, in an early number of this work. The boy, after the employment of the ligature, experienced a few mild attacks, but in the course of three or four days they ceased, and the malady did not return. The ammoniated copper was continued for about a fortnight, when he was dismissed cured. After the expiration of four months, the patient reapplied for admission in consequence of the return of his malady. Dr. Elliotson now directed the ligature to be used as before, without the internal use of the ammoniated copper, in order to ascertain whether the medicine or the ligature, or both, had suspended the disease. The first application succeeded in preventing a recurrence of the fit, and in the course of a fortnight he was again discharged cured.

Gazette of Health.

TARTAR EMETIC OINTMENT IN EPILEPSY.

In the April number of the Med. Rep. of London, Dr. CARTER, Physician to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, continues his reports on the cases that were treated by him at this institution. In the present communication five cases of epilepsy are given, in which it appears the tartar emetic ointment externally applied, proved a very efficacious remedy. In the first case the patient had been affected with the disease ten years, and never free from the attacks a fortnight. In the second case the disease continued seven years,—the fits returning

sometimes several times a day. The third and fourth cases were recent. The fifth was of about a year's standing, and appears to have been the consequence of a blow on the nucha. In the first four cases the ointment was applied to the arm, and the sores allowed to suppurate for some time; internal remedies, as laxatives in the first case—spirit of turpentine in the second, calomel and antimonial powders in the third. In the fourth, general bleeding, mercurial and saline purgatives were resorted to, as well as leeches to the temples. In the fifth case, leeches were applied to the site of the blow—aperients were prescribed, and the antimonial ointment was applied to the shaven occiput. The first patient was discharged, cured in about three months from the application of the ointment. The second was not cured, but the fits were rendered bearable. In the third, the fits were prevented during two months; no sooner, however, were the sores closed, than the disease returned—the ointment was once more resorted to, and the patient had no fits for three months, when she was discharged. The individuals of the fourth and fifth cases were also cured, or at least relieved up to the time of writing the report.

These cases are certainly highly interesting, showing, as they do, the advantage that may be derived in epilepsy from a persevering employment of a powerful revulsive. We are not at all willing to attribute, in these cases, any specific effect to the tartar emetic ointment, or to admit more benefit from it, than could have been derived from any

other revulsive means, of equal strength, and equally long used. So far, indeed, from entertaining this opinion, we think it very likely that strong blisters, the ammoniacal caustic of Dr. CONDRET, or the actual cautery would have been found as beneficial in the above cases as the tartar emetic, which, however, deserves the preference, as being more easily kept in a state of suppuration than the former, and less painful than the others. At any rate these remedies can only be viewed as auxiliary means, and should in but few cases only, be relied on to the exclusion of other remedies, in the treatment of this formidable malady.—*N. A. Med. Journ.*

POISON OF MUSHROOMS.

Dr. LETELLIER has published some Researches on the alimentary, medicinal, and poisonous properties of the mushrooms which grow in the neighborhood of Paris. Dr. L. says, that from numerous experiments made by himself on the deleterious substance which exists in mushrooms, it results, that this poison is not weakened by dessication nor by ebullition; it is not decomposed or precipitated by acids, by weak alkalies, acetate of lead, or infusion of nutgalls. It is soluble in water, and in all liquids which contain water; insoluble in ether, notwithstanding what has been said by authors concerning this point; it does not seem to be susceptible of crystallization, and consequently, cannot be separated from coloring matters, and salts with a base of potassa or soda. It neither manifests itself by odor nor savor; resists a temperature much higher than that of

boiling water, and forms with acids, crystallizable salts.

This substance exists only in the *agaricus bulbosus*, *muscarius*, and probably *vernus*, and may receive the name of *amanitine*, derived from that of the section of agarics in which it is found. M. LETELLIER states, that the symptoms produced by this deleterious principle, are nearly related to those from opium, and what establishes a closer analogy, is, the drunkenness, with coma or furious delirium, which the Russians, according to PALLAS, produce with the *agaricus muscarius*.—*Archives Gen. May, 1826.*

A lamp has been invented in England, which burns without a wick and is supplied with oil. A capillary, or very small tube, is supported perpendicularly in the oil, and on being lighted will burn with perfect regularity till extinguished. These lamps are already in use in this city.

FRENCH CLERGY.

The gifts made to the clergy of France, between 1802 and 1822, are 384 houses, 1077 pieces of ground, 309 hectares of land, and 28 libraries, besides which there have been restored to them, 56 churches, 37 chapels and abbeys, 3 convents, and 174 parsonage houses. From this statement it is concluded, that one inhabitant out of 6,000 bequeaths the whole or a part of his property to the clergy. The revenue of the Church, previous to the Revolution, is estimated at seventy or eighty millions. The legacies of the above twenty years have restored to them two, and the annual grant of the budget is forty millions: so that the actual revenue of the clergy may be estimated at fortytwo millions.

French Journal.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1827.

The following article is taken from the *Yeoman's Gazette*, Concord, Ms., April 21, 1827.

In a late Medical Journal, there are some remarks on the mischievous effects of ardent spirit—and it is stated “that during the five last years 65,000 paupers were admitted into the Philadelphia Almshouse, being an average of 13,000 a year. During these five years, ardent spirit, to the amount of 4000 gallons, which cost about \$9000, were used, besides wine, cider, &c. because it was found or thought necessary to administer it, to keep the paupers alive or comfortable!” Intemperate habits had made a quantity of spirit necessary in the opinion of the attending physician. Whether this was good advice, we pretend not to say: but the expense thus incurred by intemperance was great—and this shows one of the evils of an excessive use of ardent spirit.—Another and far greater is, that it renders the continuance of it necessary, till misery and ruin ensue.

This is surely a most singular and deplorable report if true, and an unpardonable libel if false. But as it seems to come in a credible shape we shall suppose it is true, and offer a few remarks. In the first place, we believe it to be the conviction of every sound and observing physician, that the opinion that ardent spirit is necessary to sustain or recruit a drunkard, derives not the smallest support from any facts or observations which have been made in relation to this subject. It might as truly be said that another portion of

poison is necessary to restore him to life who is now expiring under the quantity already swallowed. It is true that the system which is disordered and broken down by intemperance, needs something for support and restoration which is different from the food that is adapted to the wants and assimilating powers of a healthy body. But shall this be rum, brandy, gin, whiskey,—any of the lifedestroying forms of spirit, which are already prostrating the physical and moral man? You might as well admit to your confidence the murderer, who with friendly professions in his mouth, waits only for an opportunity to plunge a dagger to your heart. We will undertake to assert, that if it shall, on any proper occasion, be required, hundreds of cases can be brought forward to prove the fact, that as many instances have occurred where the habitually and deeply intemperate have been restored to perfect health, and in a short time too, by an instantaneous and total subduction of ardent spirit in all its forms and disguises. With these facts before us which have been for years accessible to all who have sought for them, is it credible that the overseers of a public charity, in an enlightened city, should in the space of five short years permit themselves to spend 9000 dollars for ardent spirit, to say nothing of wine and cider, for paupers, to keep them alive and comfortable, when in all probability this very restorative had made them paupers? Is it to be believed that any wellinformed and humane physician has recommended this pro-

ceeding! We will not say that every intemperate man can be restored to health of body or mind, by breaking off his vicious habit; for there are many cases in which the inroads and ravages of intemperance have become so deep and indelible, that nothing but the wreck and ruins of the man can be preserved, a dreary monument of what the victim was. We shall return to this subject, when some measures now pending shall be disposed of.

In the Court of Oyer and Terminer, last night, a broker being under examination, was asked by one of the counsel whether he belonged to the *honorable corps*? Ans. I do not determine whether it is *honorable*—but I have been a lawyer, and am now a broker, and don't think I have lost by the exchange.—*New York American.*

“Salus” is received, and shall appear.

DICTIONARY.

Aura, any subtle vapor or exhalation; *aura epileptica*, a sensation which is felt by epileptic patients, as if a blast of cold air ascended from the lower limbs towards the heart and head.

Asthenic, relating to *asthenia*, which is great debility. Asthenic diseases are those in which weakness is a prominent circumstance.

Cinchona, the Peruvian bark.

Diathesis, any particular state or disposition of the body. Febrile diathesis, &c.

Eccoprocitics, laxatives, gentle cathartics.

Femur, the thigh bone.

Humerus, the bone of the arm between the shoulder and elbow.

Hypocatharsis, a gentle catharsis, or operation on the bowels.

Scapula, the shoulderblade.

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April 10.

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THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M.D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1827.

NO. 51.

MR. ABERNETHY.

Many of our readers doubtless have heard of the celebrated English surgeon, Mr. Abernethy. The following is a sample of this singular gentleman's style and manner of lecturing at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London.

On the Stomach.

It may be questioned from the human stomach, whether man's stomach is *carnivorous* or *herbivorous*; for my own part I know nothing about it, except that I think a man's stomach is very like a lion's, and that a lion's stomach is certainly carnivorous. But that a man was meant to eat herbs is to be collected from his teeth, from the articulation of his jaw, and from his masseter muscles. That he is capable of living also on animal food, is perfectly clear; and it is evident, taking both the alimentary canal and the stomach together, that he was meant to feed on both, for the alimentary canal is between herbivorous and carnivorous.

There was a time when persons thought that the *wrinkles* in the internal coat of the stomach, rubbing against each other, produced hunger; thence arose the vulgar phrase—"Come, take the wrinkles out of your stomach," by satisfying the appetite; but all this is just nonsense, and I may as well speak upon *on this now*.

Hunger and Thirst are mere sensations, sensations of the stomach, and they seem really to be incompatible with one another; for a thirsty animal is not hungry, nor is a hungry animal thirsty. Hunger does not produce thirst, and an animal does not drink till it has digested the food. People will say otherwise; they will say, I have seen a cow drink the moment she began to eat. Well, so they may, for this is just the time when she should drink; the stomach is then empty, and the water that she then drinks does not remain above what the cow may have just at that instant ate, *eaten*, but it passes down into the stomach and fills the paunch, enters into and fills up the *cooking cavities*, as I may call them. People feel hungry when their stomach is full; this you will frequently find to be the case. A healthy young man, after eating a pound of beef steaks, and after having washed them down with a good quantity of strong drink, will be as hungry as if he had never seen the beef steaks, and ready to swallow a barrel of oysters.—Laughter.—O, there are people who eat continually, and are never satisfied but when they are eating. There was a woman in this Hospital who was eternally eating; they gave her food enough, you would have thought, to have disgusted anybody, but she crammed it all

down ; she never ceased but when her jaws were fatigued. She found out, that when she put her feet into cold water she ceased being hungry; and therefore, when she had a mind to rest her jaws, she got a bucket of cold water, plumped her feet and legs into it, and there she sat till she thought she would up and at it again.—
Laughter.—O, all this is a morbid sensation ; extreme thirst is a morbid sensation, and you must cure the morbid sensation of the stomach if you want to cure thirst; but the way people generally take to cure it, keeps up the thirst rather than allays it.

Now in looking at these follicles in the internal coat, some people say they are for secreting mucus ; others say, they are for secreting the *gastric fluid*. Now every person knows that the stomach does secrete mucus and a peculiar liquor, but I do not see the sources of this ; we see distinct sources in the intestines, but we do not in the stomach ; at least I can't.

With respect to the *physiology* of the stomach, to the best of my knowledge and belief, Mr. Hunter was the first man who broached those opinions which are generally accredited, or have not till of very late been disputed, which are, that digestion depends on the sufficient quantity of the liquid which the stomach secretes—of the *gastric fluid*, and that this liquor has the properties of rendering any nutritive matter solid, so that it should not pass through the *pylorus*, till it had undergone this peculiar solution by the *gastric fluid*. Well, if the white of an egg is given to a hungry dog, in a few minutes it will be as *hard* as if it had been boiled for hours. The juice of the stomach instantly

curdles milk. Take the *gastric fluid* out of the stomach of a calf just born, and it has most curious properties ; the little of *this* fluid that is in the stomach they dry in it, then dissolve it, and then curdle gallons of milk with it, as you all know. Then, as the fluid of the stomach has the power of dissolving that which is nutritive, the question is, why don't it dissolve itself, it is flesh ? John Hunter would never boggle at an answer for *this*, and he says, that the life of the stomach preserves it. There is no chemical agent will act on it. Worms live in the stomach, and yet there is no doubt but that a meal of dead worms would form a very nutritive repast to a dog. But does the fluid ever dissolve the stomach ? Yes, it does. The proof of this is, that if a man eats a large meal, and is suddenly afterwards killed by a blow on the head, as has often occurred, you will see that the *gastric fluid* is acting, not on the food, but on the stomach ; that it makes a hole in the stomach, and that the food gets through *this* hole into the belly. Various stomachs have been examined having these appearances. But Sir Astley Cooper told me of a case where a person was met with after death under these circumstances : the body was laid in what they would call *a very ungain attitude* ; it laid with the thorax lower than the abdomen, and on opening the body, the stomach was found to be dissolved at its *lesser arch* ; it is usually at the *larger arch* where it is dissolved ; in *this* case the diaphragm was dissolved, and the stomach was in the lower part of the thorax.

Some people say there is no *gastric juice* ; and why ? Because

we cannot get it. And why can't we get it? Because it is not secreted but at certain times; it is only secreted when it's wanted. There are many who think even now, that it's the *vital powers* of the stomach, and *not* the *liquid* that causes the digestion. Well, they may entertain *this* notion if they please, but all I am bound to do is, to tell you what appears to me to be the most reasonable physiology.

There are animals who feed on what appears to be the most un-nutritive to others—the *woody* substance of things. But what do they do? They pour on *this* substance, at first, a liquor, and then they eat it; there is a liquor evidently runs from them, and dissolves that which is afterwards to become their food.

Now, I say, analogy would lead us to suppose—and I think I have told you enough of facts, to warrant us to a pretty considerable extent in believing that the stomach does prepare a liquor of this kind. Mr. Hunter thought so; and he was employed to open the body of a patient of Sir John Pringle's, in whom the stomach was dissolved. To Sir John Pringle, it was new; Mr. Hunter said, O, I have seen it frequently, this is not disease—it is the effect of the gastric fluid. Sir John Pringle, who was President of the Royal Society, urged him to write a paper on it, and he did. Now, two or three years afterwards, a Dr. Stevens, who was preparing his *inaugural thesis* at Edinburgh, met with a man who was a *stone eater*, —a man who would swallow stones, and let you hear them rattle in his stomach; and the Doctor thought this would be a good time for making experiments;

therefore, he got him some food consisting of balls, ivory balls, metallic balls perforated with holes, which he gave him filled with animal substance; for it was said that irritation might be, and that trituration must be, the cause of digestion; but trituration was not the cause of it, as appeared from the balls after they were voided. Had putrefaction destroyed the whole? O, the time was too short for *this*. Well, he went on, and gave the balls, filled with matter, to carnivorous animals, but they also voided them undissolved. It was eight years afterwards, when this was taken up by another person, but yet no one speaks of Mr. Hunter but myself. I believe him to be the author of these opinions; certainly *this* has been doubted, it has been contended against, but I believe not on sufficient grounds. I may just mention further, that if you give putrid meat to a hungry dog, it will sweeten in the dog's stomach, and that the gastric fluid of a dog's stomach has been applied to sores.

Now this is all I have to say about digestion; but here I come to a very curious point, indeed; which is, that all Mr. Hunter's notion of digestion has been, I may say, proved by experiments on the stomach; and which is, that nervous energy is required for secretion; that secretion depends on a particular action, and that the nerves being incapable of exciting and governing *this* action of secretion, it will not take place. Dr. Haighton divides the eighth pair of nerves in a dog, and curiously enough the dog takes its food at regular periods when it's given to him, but he shows manifest signs of sickness and disquiet; something is voided from his bow-

els, as aforetime, but the dog wastes away, and becomes nearly a skeleton. In the course of a certain number of weeks, the nerves become united, and the dog digests his food, looks well, and again recovers his flesh. Dr. Harwood, of Cambridge, feeds two dogs of the same age, brothers or sisters, in an equal state of health, with flesh meat; they are pointers; and after he has done so, he decoys one of them into the fields and hunts it—induces it to hunt, to exercise it; after hunting it for four hours, he brings it home and kills both the dogs. The one that was hunted has all the flesh in his stomach, softened a little, but not digested; the other, which had been suffered to do what nature dictated,—that is, to lie down by the fire and go to sleep, has all his food digested, and is found in the high road into the bloodvessels; the lacteals are all full of the chyle which they have absorbed.

Now these things deserve the particular attention of medical men; because, what is the chief object of medicine, in a great number of cases, but to give strength to patients? For my own part, I can see no permanent source of strength but in digestion. You may give *bark*; ay, and if the stomach will digest it, it will give strength, but I know not how it will give strength otherwise. We ought to give caution to patients, not to take too much exercise after eating; to keep themselves quiet, and not to allow their minds to be disturbed, for you know the eighth pair of nerves comes from the brain to the stomach, and if the mind be agitated and disturbed, will the stomach digest food, or will it even receive it? No;

O, there is a great sympathy between the mind and the stomach; if a man has received some intelligence which really distressed or annoyed him—thoroughly distressed him; if a merchant heard of the loss of a great adventure at sea; if a surgeon heard that a patient of his had died in whose fate he had taken great interest, who he thought would have recovered, and by whose recovery he would have had credit secured to himself; or, if a lover heard that his mistress had cheated him,—laughter,—just at the time he was sitting down to dinner, would he eat his dinner do you think? O, no; or if he heard of the tidings just after he had dined, would what he had taken digest? O, no. Well, to secrete, there must be vital actions regulated by the nervous system; and, in every part of the physical body, you will see this fact proved. Now I go on; the food is digested, but what does it become? Not chyle in the stomach, but a kind of pulpy adhesive sort of matter—sticky sort of matter, of no very pleasant odor. People vomit after they digest their food, when they have had a blow on the head; and what are we to call this? O, it is generally called chyme. The stomach digests the food, and it is certainly called chyme. I may inform you, that there have been opinions entertained that the right end of the stomach is more calculated for food, and the left for the fluid. But these are things, I believe, concerning which we have no absolute knowledge; and, therefore, we are ignorant of them.—*Lancet.*

To draw a lesson in composition, as well as in anatomy and physiology from Mr. A., we have changed his

word that, to *this* in italics, wherever it should be *this*, and we have added a few words in the same letters, immediately after some word improperly used by the great surgeon; the reader may take his choice of them.

The lecturer says that a thirsty animal is not a hungry animal, nor the contrary, and that an animal does not drink till it has digested its food, --and yet admits that the cow begins to drink so soon as she begins to eat, and that this is just the time when she should drink. Now as the teacher has contradicted himself, we think the pupils and the public are quite at liberty to follow the good example of the cow if they prefer to do so, instead of attempting to understand, or follow, or make consistent with itself, the lecturer's theory, if he has any. We doubt not, from this and other evidence, that the English surgeon has as many "notions" in his head as any one of our townsmen.

We would ask Mr. A. at what time his countrymen drink, if it be not at their meals, the most regular and temperate of them? We presume that we in New England have not differed very materially from our English ancestors in the relative proportion of solids and liquids at our meals. An American often comes to his dinner with his mouth and throat so parched and dry, that he can hardly swallow a mouthful of solid food till he has drank some water. He comes to the table, if not hungry and thirsty at the same instant, he is both in the nearest possible succession, so that he hardly

knows whether to drink first from thirst, or to eat first from hunger; and whichever he does first, he does the other immediately after. This is particularly the case in dry and warm seasons. Of what do our meals consist? of the first and third some fluid preparation is a most important part; and if at the second we should drink more water, and less of what is more stimulant, it would doubtless be far better for many of us. It must be recollected, however, that it is on the natural call and want of some mild diluent at this time, of which water is the best, that a fallacious and perverse argument is set up in apology for intemperance in drinking.

From the London *Literary Gazette*.

MEDICAL ESSAYS.—NO. II.

—“First the infant,
Mewling and puking in the nurse’s arms.”
Shakspeare.

In the preceding Essay I entered into some minute details respecting the clothing of newborn infants; and offered some general instructions with regard to the dress of children after the period of infancy: I shall pursue the same plan in treating of the food of children.

1. *Food of Early Infancy.*—If Providence has ordained that man be born in a state of health, the same beneficent Power has bountifully provided nourishment of a quality adapted for the delicate nature of his digestive organs, and for easy assimilation; so as to promote the rapid growth and the evolution of new parts in the body of the infant. The necessity of a distinct kind of food for this state, is demonstrated, not only through-

out the animal, but also in the vegetable creation. The oak, which for centuries has braved the tempest, and drawn its support from the soil, was nourished, when its first leaves were evolved, by a milky emulsion formed from the cotyledons of the acorn; and a lactiferous fountain is formed in the bosom of every mother, for the support of her infant, almost immediately after its birth. There can be no question as to the moral duty which is imposed on every woman who becomes a mother, to suckle her child; but the artificial state in which society has placed the human race, suggests the inquiry—Is every mother capable of performing this office?

Though nature has provided that the food of the infant should be prepared in the maternal system, yet, the fitness of this food for the purposes for which it is intended, depends greatly on the health, both corporeal and mental, of the mother. Thus, if a mother be in a state of disease, the secretion of the milk is necessarily impaired; and it may be both deficient in quantity, and of a quality not only not calculated to afford the nourishment which the infant requires, but likely to disagree with its stomach and bowels, and to be productive of disease. A woman so circumstanced, is, certainly, incapable of performing the duties of a mother; and in such a case, however revolting the idea may be to maternal feelings, the infant must be suckled by an alien. I employ the expression “must be,” because, as I shall prove afterwards, no circumstance unconnected with the health of the mother can authorize the hazardous experiment of dry nursing, or bringing an infant up by the hand.

But, where one mother is rendered incapable, by disease, of nourishing her infant, hundreds become bad nurses, and injure their offspring, by circumstances altogether under their own control. It is wonderful, and yet the fact is every day before our eyes, that even delicate and otherwise unhealthy females, acquire a state of robust health previous to childbirth; and become, and they might continue, good and efficient nurses, were they properly managed. The supineness, however, in the exercise of their reasoning faculties, which makes them the slaves of custom in clothing their infants, renders them the victims of the prejudices of education, opinion, and of selfindulgence, with respect to the diet and regimen which are requisite for constituting them good nurses. “La! ma’am,” says the old monthly attendant, “what nonsense the doctor speaks, about eating mild things, and not drinking no ale nor porter: how can such a great boy be supported on such washy fare? I knows that milk never can’t be made without ale nor porter, ay, and brandy and water—and good living to boot.” The advice of so sage a counsellor, seconded by inclination, is followed; the habit of the mother, which was cool and admirably fitted to secrete healthy nutriment for her babe, becomes heated and feverish; the functions of the lactiferous glands are disturbed; the supply of milk is diminished; and what is formed is of a bad quality. The same effect on the secretion of the milk is occasioned, at a later period, by the bustle of visiting, late hours, irregularity in the periods of suckling, and mental irritation. A woman, therefore, who intends

to do her duty to her offspring, cannot be a nurse and a votary of fashion at the same time ; and every source of anxiety, or of mental agitation, must be carefully avoided. The latter circumstances, indeed, are too often unavoidably connected with situation in life and domestic occurrences ; and impede the exertions of many an excellent and well-disposed woman to perform her maternal duties : but in numerous instances, irritability of temper being unrestrained, and feelings ill regulated, women become fretful and peevish with trifles ; and, consequently, cannot continue the duty which they have commenced, and the performance of which they find even delightful. Thus situated, a woman becomes incapable of nursing her child ; and, in providing another nurse for it, not only the health, but the equanimity of temper of the individual, should be carefully ascertained.

As it is only among the middle ranks and higher classes of society that infants can be transferred from the breast of the mother to that of a hired nurse, the moral character of the duty imposed on every woman of suckling her own offspring has been too much overlooked ; and it is thought to be sufficient, if a mother behaves kindly to the menial who supplies her place, and sees that she performs her duty to the infant entrusted to her care. But mothers are not alive to the responsibilities which they incur, by exposing the infant of the hired nurse to the danger attendant on dry nursing ; for few of the unfortunate children whose mothers are engaged as wet nurses, are suckled ; and hundreds, I might say thousands, of infants are sacrificed an-

nually to the necessities or the cupidity of their mothers, and to the unnatural habits of fashionable life, improper management, selfindulgence, or unrestrained temper.

But whether an infant be suckled by its mother or by a hired nurse, it is evident, from what has already been said, that no other food can properly supply the place of the breast milk in early infancy. It is of importance, therefore, to inquire what diet, supposing a woman to be in health, is best fitted for promoting the due secretion of good health ? what exercise a mother who is suckling ought to take ? and at what periods the infant should be suckled ? In reply to the first query, I advise every woman to adhere, as much as possible, to plain, light, and nutritious diet; to abstain from highseasoned food, salted meats, and pastry. A very mistaken notion prevails among the fair sex, that vegetables should be avoided by nurses ; on the contrary, every nurse should eat a moderate share of wellboiled vegetables at dinner ; and ripe fruit, if it agrees with her at other times, cannot prove hurtful whilst she is suckling, provided it is eaten in the forenoon. From the fluid nature of the milk, nurses require a larger supply of beverage than other women ; but this should neither be strong nor soporific, but diluting, bland, and cooling. In females of delicate habits, and during the progress of suckling, when the nurse is conscious that her strength is failing, ale or porter, or a moderate quantity of wine, may be requisite ; but if these are indulged in, they should be accompanied with a large share of mild and diluting liquids, as weak tea, milk and water, barley

gruel, or rennet whey. If the individual belongs to the higher class of society, the most substantial repast should be made at lunch-time ; for a hearty meal of animal food taken at six or seven o'clock in the evening, is more likely to be productive of fever in the habit of a nurse than to favor the secretion of milk. Supper, however, is a meal which every nurse, who performs her duty to the infant, requires ; for she who resigns her charge at night to a nurse maid, to have its cravings supplied by the feeding bottle or the spoon, scarcely deserves the name of a nurse. With respect to exercise, every nurse should walk out daily, or take exercise in a carriage, if too delicate to walk without suffering from fatigue ; but no exercise should be taken which can hurry the circulation of the blood; for, as the milk is formed from this vital fluid, it is evident, that its secretion or preparation in the glands of the breast cannot be properly effected if it be carried in too rapid a current through them. Hence nurses ought to refrain from dancing, and even from riding on horseback, unless the paces of the horse be extremely easy. For the same reason, as has already been hinted, every agitation of spirits should be avoided ; for the softness and serenity of the female character is essential to the nurse ; and it is vain to expect a bland and healthful rill to flow from the fountain of infantile nutriment, when the poison of discord is infused into the bosom, and the heart is swelled with acrimony and vehemence. But in securing that complacency of disposition in the nurse which is so necessary for the wellbeing of the infant, both parents must

concur; for who can expect equanimity of temper in the wife who is harassed by contradiction and debate, and who seldom feels the solace of those endearments, and of that tenderness, which esteem and love only can secure in connubial intercourse ? Nothing interferes more with the duties of the nurse than irregular hours ; and hence I repeat, that no character is more opposite than that of the nursing mother and the woman of pleasure. In respect to the periods of taking food, it is true that infants may be inured to any habits that the nurse adopts ; but the child who is accustomed to be suckled at fixed periods is always the most healthy ; the stomach is less likely to be overcharged from excessive hunger, or to be nauseated by one meal being crowded on another, in order to accommodate the engagements of the nurse. Young children require to be more frequently nourished than those who are more advanced in age ; at first, the interval between each period of suckling should not exceed two or three hours ; but when the child is four months old, it may extend to four hours, and to six during the night, if the child sleeps well. To females who have the true feelings of a mother, these intervals are sufficient to permit exercise and the pleasures of society, as far as they ought to be indulged in by a rational nursing mother ; but to one who regards her duty to her infant as secondary to her amusements, these intervals are far too limited ; the infant is left to mewl and writhe in the nurse's lap, tormented with the cravings of hunger, while the unnatural mother is listening to the scandal of a coterie, or to the pretty vaporings

of some empty dandy ; and when at length its wants are supplied, the meal it obtains is heated by retention, or by the flurried state of the thoughtless mother, when conscience awakens her recollection of her infant, who has been suffering for hours from her inadvertence. Again I repeat, such females ought not to undertake the nursing of their offspring. On the other hand, many excellent women, from a mistaken tenderness, nurse their infants every time they cry or seem uneasy ; and not satisfied even with this, add a meal or two of thick pap or arrow-root. By thus constantly stimulating the stomach, the little creatures acquire artificial appetites, which cannot be satisfied ; the food is never fairly digested before the stomach is replenished ; and the thick pap, from passing in a crude state into the bowels, produces diarrhoeas and other complaints ; hence the frequent aid of medicine is requisite to correct the effects of the thick food and repletion. Indeed it is not easy to say, whether greater evils arise from this error or from dry-nursing. The repletion itself is sufficient to weaken the powers of the stomach ; but the addition of the thick food forms an imperfect chyme, which, passing in a crude state into the intestines, originates an acrid chyle, which obstructs the mesenteric glands. On this account, the nutriment cannot enter into the blood, to supply the waste and exigencies of the frame ; the stomach becomes inflated and tumid, the limbs are emaciated, and the child sinks into a state of atrophy, and falls a victim to inanition, in the midst of profusion. The physiognomy of an infant starved from

over feeding, or from improper diet, is the most deplorable sight on which the eye can rest ; the plumpness of the cheeks being sunk, the angles of the jawbones project ; while the skin, which is sallow, hangs in wrinkles ; and there being no teeth, the chin rises and projects forward, so as to give the countenance the similitude of an old shriveled face in miniature, distorted with pain. Yet there is a semblance of patience or resignation in the expression of the face ; the cry is feeble, and the sunk but large eye seems to turn a deplored look on the beholders, and powerfully to speak a language expressive of suffering and anguish. Mothers and nurses, nevertheless, look daily on a picture so heartrending ; and though they are apprised of its origin, yet go on administering to the evil ; so impregnable is the stronghold of prejudice and self-deception.

From all that has been detailed the following conclusions may be deduced respecting the *food of early infancy* :

1. That the breast milk, being prepared by nature for the support of the infant, is preferable to every other kind of food.
2. That when the mother is healthy, and the supply of breast milk is sufficient, the infant should be supported on it alone.
3. That in order to secure a healthful and abundant supply of the breast milk, the diet of the mother or nurse should be light, nutritive, and unstimulating ; that her mind should be kept in a tranquil state ; that every thing should be avoided which can hurry the circulation and heat the body ; and when either mental or corporeal circumstances flurry the spirits or

irritate the temper, the child must not be applied to the breast till the agitation has subsided.

4. That an infant should be suckled only at stated hours.

Feb. 21, 1827.

T.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

THE HABITS AND SUFFERINGS OF
LITERARY MEN.

It is a common remark that the feeblest and sickliest of our community are among the female sex. This is a mistake; for the most feeble are among the male sex, and among that portion of the male sex called *Students*. The habits of the student are always more or less of a sedentary nature; and the life of the student is always more or less inactive. These inactive and sedentary habits are most commonly injurious to health, and particularly so to a *man*, because they are not the habits to which *he* has been used while young. His younger days have been spent in active and animating employments, in playing, in jumping, running, leaping, boxing, and the nameless *et cæteras* of a boy's amusements. When he grows older and enters college, he is exceedingly apt to give up all exercise whatever; the contrast is greater than he can bear; the wants of nature cannot be satisfied without relaxation from study, and pleasant recreation; his organs refuse to perform their functions; and weakness, and languor, and sickness are brought on. With *woman* it is different. She also, it is true, leads a sedentary life, but her constitution is fitted for such a life. She is accustomed to inactivity from her infancy. Seldom it is we see young girls entering with any degree of pleasure into the rough sports of boys.

They are learnt, as soon as they learn anything, to sit for hours together on the same seat, working a sampler or thrumming on a pianoforte.

The habits, then, of the student, are most commonly injurious to health, because it most commonly happens that he neglects to take regular, daily exercise. Unfortunately, most students are extremely apt to persuade themselves and others that they need no recreation, that their constitution is of iron; that they can sit still the whole day with no companions but their books, without the least inconvenience, and without suffering afterwards in their health. If you tell them of recreation and rest, and earnestly beg of them as they love themselves not to apply too closely to their books, they will laugh at you, and boast of health and strength, and robust constitutions; they will tell you that so soon as they begin to feel any inconvenience from their present course of life, then it will be time to think of changing it. But, alas, misguided men, ye will have come to your wits too late. It is then no time to think of changing your course of life. You may then call on your robust constitution in vain, it will not hear you,—it will fail you. Your long boasted friends, *health* and *strength*, will soon drop off; for when the seed is sown, will it not grow? When it has been fostered, will it not take root? When it has taken root, will it not flourish and increase? Be assured, we speak no words of vain declamation, when we say that the seeds of *disease*, also, when planted in early life, will spring up and will flourish, and will bring forth fruit in abundance,

the fruit of debility and disease, unless checked and prevented by early watchfulness and care. When a disease is so far advanced as to be *perceived*, it *has* taken root, deep root, which will spread itself through the body, and it is but too often impossible to arrest its fatal progress. Disease is like the subtle poison that secretly infuses its sure and deadly venom through the veins, at first slowly and without pain, but at length when it has reached the vitals and begins to discover itself, it spreads rapidly through the body, and death is at hand.

It is a law of our nature, that the functions of the body should sympathize with those of the mind. It is well known, that if one meets with misfortune which weighs heavily on his mind, his body will become emaciated, he will refuse nourishment, the whole man will be altered.—Take the man of robust constitution, whose mind shall be strong and well trained in wisdom, and whose heart shall be brave and generous and full of vigor, animation, virtue, and genius. Suppose this man to be travelling on some foreign coast, and to be taken captive by some hostile and cruel people, and carried away, and chained, and made to labor with the galley slaves. Now behold him laboring for the first time in his life, engaged perhaps in carrying off the *refuse* of great cities in his *bare arms*, with a *man* at his back, lashing his naked body. See how he will work, and how furiously he will drive before his master to save his aching nerves from these cruel stripes. Mark how changed in every respect is his generous and noble spirit. See with what fierceness and rage and despair he will look

on a fellow laborer, who may perchance be released for a while from this heartrending situation, to be transferred to another, perhaps still more inhuman master.

Since then the functions of the mind so sympathize with those of the body, it is easy to say why the student's mode of life is most commonly injurious to health. He passes the day in nothing, perhaps, but reading and thinking and eating. I mean, he does not interest himself with any of the active amusements of life. What are the consequences of this passing one's days without exercise, without relaxation, without change? These are as plain and inevitable as they are appalling. He will, by degrees, lose all his natural bodily strength. From want of relaxation and exercise, he loses his wonted activity; his digestive organs refuse to perform their functions; his food, therefore, is not converted into the proper substances to form blood; the blood is not distributed with that freedom of circulation which is necessary to ensure a hearty and robust constitution; neither does it flow with that vigor and regularity into the brain which is necessary to constitute a strong, active, and powerful mind. The once flushed and plump cheeks become pale and sallow and thin; the skin becomes diseased; the eyes are clammy, and sunken deep in their orbits; spectacles, hideous spectacles are mounted on the nose, either to assist or to hide those sickening furred eyes; the hair becomes prematurely grey; the bones, the *very bones* are visible; in fine, the whole body becomes morbid; and dyspepsia, if not consumption, in its most terrific and most incurable state,

stares the poor student in the face.

And now, you who have thus ruined your health, thinkest thou that all this will come on you, and that nothing worse will befall you? You will perhaps say, Nothing can be *worse* than the appalling picture you have just drawn. Would to God the picture were finished! But, think you, that amid all this wasting away of the *body*, the destroying canker will not eat into the *mind*? Do you flatter yourself that the *mind* is going to retain all its power and vigor and animation, amidst this general wreck of the *body*? Alas—you flatter yourself in vain. When the bottle bursts will not the wine run out? The *mind* sympathizes with the *body*; becomes, like the *body*, inactive; loses its power of deep reflection; loses all consciousness of outward objects; is disgusted with those pleasures, though innocent and useful, which once both gratified and delighted it; loses all relish for society, and seeks constant retirement; avoids the company even of those who were once nearer and dearer to it than all the world beside; it becomes at length confused and bewildered. The man thus afflicted becomes nervous; he is irritated that he should suffer pain, the consequence of his own negligence; he begins at this late moment to see his folly; he now thinks how he shall save his shattered constitution; he throws aside books, in hopes of being able to tear up the deeply rooted malady; he becomes still more restless from being deprived of his chief pastime and pleasure, *study*; all his intellects in the end become deranged; and this unfortunate man becomes—a lunatic!

We have taken, it is true, an extreme case; and we shall be told that such cases are seldom likely to occur. We allow all may not be affected precisely in this way. But we have had many, very many examples of this nature, enough to give a solemn warning to every student. We ourselves have known fatal, melancholy instances of this nature, and among our own friends. Constant and wearing pain, consumption, blindness, deafness, partial insanity, fixed, permanent madness, and many other calamities, we have known to have been the result of constant, unceasing study.

It is the duty, then, of every student, to guard against these misfortunes. It is a duty he owes, not only to himself,—who though a great, is not perhaps the greatest sufferer,—but to his friends, and to society. In the first place, it is a duty he owes to his *friends*, for it is they who are in a constant state of anxiety on his account. It is they who are looking forward with the fondest expectation and pride, to the coming time when he is to be ushered forth into the world, there to display and offer for use the fruits of his long, and hard, and, we trust, profitable study. It is they who daily, most humbly, and heartily pray that his first entrance into life may be honorable and useful, to himself and to them. It is they whose hearts leap for joy at his success—whose every chord vibrates, and sympathizes, and harmonizes, with each vibration in his heart. With him they rejoice, with him they mourn. In fine, it is they who look forward to him as the main prop, and stay, and joy of their old age. How necessary, how important is

it, then, that the student should strive his utmost to preserve his health, at the same time that he is engaged with his studies.

Again, it is a duty he owes to society. It is *society at large* who are, in reality, to feel all those advantages,—the influence of all that application and study, the happy effect of all those virtues, the advantage of all that learning, and wisdom, and greatness, and goodness, which constitute the beau ideal of his enthusiastic friends. It is *society at large* who are in reality the sufferers and the losers, if by not taking due care of his health he should fail of success in the world. It is *society at large* whom he is to instruct and enlighten should he succeed, and arrive at an eminent station in the temple of Fame. How great a debt, then, does that man owe to society, and how great and unpardonable a sin has he committed against society, who by wilful negligence of his health shall be lost to the world.

It now becomes, therefore, an important question, how are the evil consequences of close application and study to be avoided? Our answer is short—by **EARLY, DAILY EXERCISE.** This is a never failing, as it is a simple and easy preventive. We mean by ‘early,’ that this exercise should be taken while the student is young, for if it be deferred till he is of riper years, he will be unable to take any violent exercise, or even moderate exercise in any considerable degree, without extreme fatigue, and frequently without injury. Regular, daily exercise is the simplest, the cheapest, the surest, the safest, and the best possible antidote or even cure that human ingenuity

can devise, for the prevention of those diseases to which sedentary men are most subject.

Since, then, exercise is so important and even necessary, what kind of exercise is recommended? What kind is best suited to the habits and modes of life of literary men?

These questions we shall proceed to answer in our next.

SALUS.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.

One of the late London Mechanic Journals contains some remarks on the subject of spontaneous combustion, which are entitled to general notice.—Some experiments have been made with a mixture of lampblack and hempseed oil. It was wrapped in a coarse woollen cloth and laid in a chest for a few hours. When taken out and laid on a stone floor, it emitted a vapor, and in a few minutes took fire. Similar experiments were tried with hemp impregnated with tallow and a small quantity of hempseed oil.—This began to smoke in an hour, and in another hour took fire. Wool impregnated in the same manner took fire in a few hours. Ground coffee, bound up in linen, took fire in three quarters of an hour. Mahogany sawdust, roasted brown, and wrapped up while warm, took fire in a quarter of an hour. Barley coffee, roasted brown, being put into a shallow pot and slightly covered with the lid, became warm, and in a few hours, on placing on the mass shreds of paper, they took fire—and a knife stuck into it became red hot. The writer states, for the information of brewers, that in the drying of malt, there is great danger of the grain taking

fire in the kiln, and burning a long while after the operation is finished. He notices several mills, which were burnt down, in consequence of the vapor emitted by the heated flour taking fire when a light was introduced.

Salem Obs.

HORRID EFFECTS, OF INTEMPE-RANCE.

A quarrel ensued a few evenings since, between two young men, brothers, by the name of Saunders, of Fort Edward, while in a state of intoxication, in which one of them split open the head of the other with a shovel ! The sufferer was living at the last accounts, though his recovery is considered hopeless.—*Sandy Hill Sun.*

On Tuesday night of last week, a man of the name of Burr, with his wife and son, living at Hampstead, L. Island, went to bed in a state of inebriety. Some time in the night, a sense of suffocation aroused the father, who perceived something on the fire ; he arose, and procuring some water extinguished the fire, and returned again to bed. In the morning when he awoke, he found his wife lying in the fireplace, *burned to death!* her head, one arm and one leg were burnt off ! When they retired to bed, some liquor was left in a bottle ; in the morning it was empty—it is supposed she got up and drank what remained, sat in a chair by the fire, and fell into it.

SINGULAR APPLICATION OF GAL-VANISM.

It happens too often, in that excruciating affection, the toothache, that the dentist, not being able from any external marks, to distinguish the diseased tooth from the sound ones which adjoin it, is oblig-

ed to begin pulling away at random, so that, to get rid of one that is decayed, the unfortunate patient must run the hazard of losing two or three, which might have served out their century. For a long time, there was no known check against this blundering sort of work; but very recently, the extraordinary discoveries which have been made in galvanism, have developed a test for the detection of bad teeth, or rather the preservation of good ones, of infallible certainty in its application. The method is thus described by Professor Aldini. “He, the dentist, first insulates the patient, and places in his hands an electric chain ; he then applies a small piece of wire to the wisdom tooth, and draws it gradually over its surface ; he then applies it to the next tooth in the same manner, and proceeds in the like method with the rest, till he comes to the diseased tooth, which is discovered by violent pain being produced, and an involuntary commotion in the body. It has always been remarked, when the tooth is extracted, that it exhibited a carious part, which, in its proper situation, was not visible.” Need we add, that no person ought to submit himself, or his children, to the forceps of a dentist, without seeing that he makes use of this most necessary precaution.—*Mass. Journal.*

GERMINATION OF SEEDS.

The presence of oxygen gas being the principal requisite for germination, and chlorine the most powerful agent for developing this gas, it has been found that healthy seeds, steeped in the chlorine fluid, are accelerated in their germination ; and that others which appeared to have lost their faculty of germination, have recovered it by the same process.—*Humboldt.*

BOSTON, TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1827.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

The next number will complete the 4th volume of this paper. This end of a volume is an important epoch to any periodical journal, for the accomplishment of two good purposes,—namely, paying up for the past, and subscribing for the future. We shall accordingly be glad to sign a receipt or to execute an order for this journal, and the more frequently we may be called on to do this, the more we shall be gratified and the better rewarded for the best efforts we can make to render the contract between the paper and subscribers advantageous to the latter.

With regard to the best time for beginning to take a paper, however, there may be an exception in our case. This paper with its present character, form, and objects, begun with the 20th no. of volume 4th, October 3, 1826. We think that those who may deem it worth preserving for future use will be better satisfied with it, as a whole, if taken from the period just mentioned. But this is merely our impression, subscribers shall do as they please. The whole of the 4th volume can be had, if desired, bound or unbound. An Index of the contents of volume 4th, shall be duly forwarded to subscribers.

BATHING.

As the season for cold bathing is approaching, we have caused a number of the Discourses on Bathing to be deposited in a book shop

near the young gentlemen at Cambridge, who are so laudably engaged in cultivating their minds and hearts, that they may also be physically "pure without and sound within." We shall be happy to supply, in like manner, with this means of strength and activity, the pupils of any other seminary who will favor us with an order for the purpose. Everything in bathing, cold and warm, depends on the mode of conducting the process. Cold bathing may be made chilling and irksome in the first instance, and injurious in the second,—or precisely the contrary of this; and in warm bathing mistakes equally great may be made, or advantages secured, according to circumstances. Whatever is to be avoided or observed is clearly pointed out in these discourses in either bath.

The reason why so few marriages are happy, is because young ladies spend their time in making nets, not in making cages.

We have just received, but have not had time to read, the first no. of the *Western Medical and Physical Journal*, published at Cincinnati, April, 1827.

An essay from Dr. James Fountain will appear next week.

DICIONARY.

Deobstruent, removing obstruction.
Lamella, a thin plate or layer.
Masseter muscles, chewing or masticating muscles.

Nucha, the hind part, or nape of the neck.

Pylorus, the lower aperture of the stomach which opens into the intestines.

Serosity, the thin, watery, or serous part of the blood.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

A NEW EDITION OF
THACHER'S MILITARY
JOURNAL
OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

COTTONS & BARNARD have just published, A MILITARY JOURNAL DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR, from 1775 to 1783 ; describing interesting events and Transactions of this period ; with numerous Historical Facts and Anecdotes, from the Original Manuscript. To which is added an Appendix, containing Biographical Sketches, of several General Officers. By JAMES THACHER, M. D. late Surgeon in the American Army. Second Edition, Revised and Corrected.

"As Americans we hail with delight any attempt to rescue from oblivion the words or actions of those whose names we have been taught to revere."

April 10.

DR. HULL'S TRUSS.

THE very great superiority of this instrument over every other heretofore invented, as to convenience, ease, and comfort to the wearer, and its curative power, is shown by the testimony of respectable physicians, and the formal approbation of Medical Societies, but more than all by the actual cures it has performed. For a more particular description of this Truss, see the last Edition, 1826, of Thacher's Modern Practice.

Ebenezer Wight, Apothecary, Milk Street, opposite Federal Street, has just received an assortment of Umbilical and Inguinal Trusses.

March 6th.

GREAT TRUSS MANUFACTORY.

J. P. WHITWELL, Druggist, corner of Milk and Kilby Streets, has in his employment one of the first artists and most ingenious mechanics in the United States, for the purpose of manufacturing Trusses. At this great depository may be found every sort of Truss, manufactured either in Europe or America, made in the most elegant style, and warranted to accomplish every object which a good Truss can effect. To medical men it is needless to state the important advan-

tages which arise from having the instrument well adapted to the part to be relieved. Here the patient, if unable to suit himself with those on hand, may have one made agreeably to the exact measurement of his body.

French Elastic Catheters.

Just received, from France, a few gross of the most approved Catheters, used by the first physicians and surgeons in the French metropolis ; they are sold at a very low rate.

Bay Rum.

A few dozen bottles of this excellent embrocation in cases of hysterical and nervous affections, &c.

Also, Whitwell's Original and Genuine Liquid Opodiodoc.

April, 1827.

ADAMS' PATENT, SWELLED BEAM BEDSTEAD.

Made at 422, Washington St. Boston.

IT has neither screw nor lacing, and may be taken down or put up in one minute. It gives the luxury of a sacking as tight as a drumhead. The price of this bedstead is no greater, with all its improvements, than the heavy, cumbersome, oldfashioned ones.—This foundation of tranquillity and repose,—this illustration of neatness, taste and economy, may be seen at all hours of the day, as above.

April 24.

CHARLES WHITE,
271, Washington Street, corner of Winter Street,

HAS received by the London packet, his Spring supply of DRUGS, MEDICINES, & SURGEONS' INSTRUMENTS,—making, together with those in store, a complete assortment,—among them are—narcotine, morphine, acetate of morphine, sulphate of morphine, solution of acetate of morphine, extract of opium deprived of morphine ; emetine, iodine, hydriodate of soda, hydriodate of potash, hydriodate of mercury, hydrocyanic acid, colchicum seeds and roots, extract of elaterium, extract of belladonna, extract of henbane, extract of hops, extract of hellebore, black drop, croton oil, blue pill, pneumatic nipple pumps, silver, ivory, wood, lead, glass, and gum elastic nipple shields, &c.

Strict personal attendance paid to Physicians' prescriptions, and medicines delivered at any hour of the night. 6w

Published weekly, by John Cotton, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, but, if not paid within three months, three dollars and a half will be required, and this will, in no case, be deviated from.—Advertisements, \$1 a square.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

JOHN G. COFFIN, M.D., EDITOR.

THE BEST PART OF THE MEDICAL ART, IS THE ART OF AVOIDING PAIN.

VOL. IV.

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1827.

NO. 52.

EXTRACT FROM MR. LAWRENCE'S INTRODUCTORY LECTURE TO THE SPRING COURSE OF SUR- GERY.

*At the New Theatre, Aldersgate Street,
London.*

Mr. LAWRENCE began by observing that Mr. Wardrop and himself used the word surgery in its common acceptation, considering it to include, 1. Injuries of all kinds ; 2. The greater part of external and local complaints ; 3. Such internal complaints as appear externally, causing swelling, change of figure, or color, &c ; 4. All cases requiring external topical treatment, operations, and manual proceedings of all kinds. Such is the catalogue of subjects embraced in the writings of Mr. Samuel Cooper, in Richter's Elements of Surgery and the Treatises on Surgical Diseases of Boyer and Delpech. The work of the latter bears a title, which shows that the same uncertainty exists on the continent as in this country, in regard to the precise extent of surgery ; it is called "Traité des Maladies réputées Chirurgicales."

The Lecturer continued : It must be confessed, that the boundary just indicated is obscure and uncertain ; hence, as in the case of contiguous governments, with undefined possessions, disputes have arisen respecting the right

to certain portions of territory. Injuries, operations, external local complaints, and manual proceedings, are undisputed possessions of surgery. But external and internal diseases cannot be clearly divided ; here physic and surgery join ; the former has occupied some of the external, while surgery lays claim to a part of the internal.

A person beginning to study disease, will have his attention excited by finding, on the one hand, that the cure of the injuries and diseases of the human frame is divided between two classes of persons, physicians and surgeons, that these are taught in distinct courses of lectures, and treated in different books, and that the education and training are so different, that two Colleges have been established, one for medicine, the other for surgery ; while, on the other side, with the exception of a few places, the whole of medicine and surgery is practised by one set of persons, the surgeons and apothecaries, or general practitioners.

Viewing these apparent contradictions, he naturally inquires in what the distinction between physic and surgery consists. Whether in the nature of the diseases allotted to each, or in the mode of treatment ? Whether there is any difference in the mode of

learning the two? How and when the distinction arose? Whether it is well founded? Whether it tends to the advantage of the public, or merely to the benefit of physicians and surgeons?

Nothing like the modern distinction was made by the ancients; there is no trace of it in the Greek, Roman, or Arabian writers. Certain branches of practice were followed separately by Egypt, where there were persons who took care of the eyes, or of the teeth, even of some internal diseases; and similar distinctions in practice existed in Rome: but Hippocrates, Celsus, Galen, and others, treat indifferently of the nature and management of fevers, injuries, internal and external disorders. In adverting to treatment, Celsus divides it into three heads, the same which we still adopt, namely, diet, &c., remedies, chirurgical, or manual proceedings. But the notion of splitting medicine into two parts, and of teaching them differently, never seems to have been entertained by this elegant and philosophic writer, nor by those other founders and great promoters of medical science and practice, whose names and works are still regarded with respect and deference.

In the long night of barbarism and ignorance which intervened between the downfall of the Roman empire and the revival of learning in the west of Europe, literature and knowledge were confined to the priests and monks, whose stock was scanty enough. They embraced, with the rest, medicine. The council of Tours held in 1163, prohibited them from shedding blood, and thus they were obliged to desist from

bleeding, toothdrawing, and all curative proceedings that involved loss of blood. Thus Surgery, which then consisted of the fewest and rudest processes, was taken up by barbers, attendants on baths, itinerants, and mountebanks. The separation of surgery, or one branch of treatment, from that medical knowledge which is the indispensable guide to the time and mode of its application; and its association with the art of the barber, long outlived the circumstances which produced it. In England, it lasted till the middle of the last century, when the company of barbersurgeons was legally extinguished. The union still exists in many parts of Europe.

Their ecclesiastical profession not only compelled the priest-physicians to abstain from shedding blood, but obliged them to neglect other parts of medicine. Guy de Chauliac, the physician and chamberlain of Pope Urban V., in his *Chirurgia Magna*, written at Avignon in 1363, makes no mention of female complaints, as his profession forbade the necessary approach to the sex.

The rank of surgeons and physicians was at this time very different, though in point of real knowledge, and capability of rendering useful service, they were nearly on a par. The physicians depended entirely on the writings of their predecessors, especially those of Galen; whose authority in medicine was as implicitly received as that of Aristotle in philosophy. They were occupied in reading, expounding, and commenting on the works of Galen; and hence were obliged to study the learned languages, and belonged to the Universities. They

who exercised surgery were men of the lowest kind, without any pretensions to science or literature. Yet the barbersurgeons, though jealously kept under by their masters, the physicians, were led by their peculiar employments in performing the minor operations, dressing wounds, and taking care of accidents, to perceive the importance of anatomical knowledge. They began to study this essential foundation of all medical science, and thus acquired a description of knowledge which, by enabling them to render more important services, added to their respectability. Mr. Lawrence here alluded to the character and services of Ambrose Paré, who calls himself barbersurgeon, and who was confessedly illiterate ; yet his writings are still read with instruction and interest, while those of the learned physicians, his contemporaries and opponents, have been long forgotten. The acquisition of a little knowledge leads to the desire of more ; thus, by the continued study of anatomy and physiology, and the scientific principles hence derived, surgery has been freed from its long degrading alliance with the barbers, has effaced the stain of its ignoble origin, and gained an equality with physic in public estimation, if not in the ordinances of the Herald's College.

In order to judge whether there is any wellgrounded distinction between physic and surgery, it would be necessary to advert to the nature of medical science and practice generally. The Lecturer here proceeded to point out particularly the branches of knowledge on which the practice of medicine is founded ; namely,

anatomy, physiology, pathology, and therapeutics ; and adverted to the idle question, whether medicine is a science or art ; and the absurd distinction that medicine is science, and surgery art.

The question, he continued, as to the real distinction between physic and surgery comes to this : In the general mass of knowledge just described, can you find out a portion insulated from the rest ; a portion which is not connected with other parts, and which can be understood without a knowledge of them ? Or, can you separate this mass of knowledge into two independent halves ? Certainly not. The entire structure and functions are universally and intimately connected : no part and no function can be thoroughly understood by itself. There is one source of nutrition, one centre of circulation, and of nervous energy, for the whole body ; and there are the further connexions between almost all parts of the body, called sympathies. Hence the various parts, though each exercising its own peculiar office, are not independent or selfsubsistent. The causes of natural functions, and of those deviations which constitute disease, are not to be found in the part itself, but generally in the state of other associated parts and functions, and often of comparatively distant ones, and the means of cure are seldom to be applied to the very part diseased. These points were illustrated by reference to gouty inflammation of the toe, produced by causes acting on the stomach, —to paralysis of a finger from affection of the brain,—to disorder of the head influencing the whole body in idiopathic fever, and to febrile disturbance of the whole

economy, caused by local injury or disease.

The Lecturer observed further, that though individual organs are numerous, the elements of organic structure are comparatively few. The various proportions in which they are combined make the differences, as the various combinations of a few letters make the infinite variety of words. The basis of nearly all parts is made up of the cellular, vascular, and nervous structures. Hence pathological principles are general, and, consequently, treatment must be similar throughout. When you have arranged all diseases in any form that you please, if you strike a line through, so as to divide the mass into two halves, you may give them different names, but, in essential nature, they will be exactly like each other ; the causes, the origin, course and treatment of the affections, included in each division, will be the same ; and this will hold true in whatever direction you may carry the division. If you must have a distinction of two parts, separate the diseases of the right and left side, or of the upper and lower half ; this will at least be clear and intelligible !

If the anatomy and physiology of the several parts be similar, if the pathology be the same, if the treatment presents no difference, the question as to the mode of learning physic and surgery is answered. There can be only one proper course of proceeding, though there may be various wrong ones. Mankind do not usually take the trouble of thinking for themselves ; they are averse to new modes, and prefer adhering to ancient usages. In this country, there has been almost

as great a difference between the education of surgeons and physicians, as between that of persons following occupations totally dissimilar. From the age of sixteen, surgeons have usually employed themselves for six or more years with pharmacy, with the actual study of anatomy and disease, and the practical application of the simpler parts of medical and surgical treatment, gradually advancing to the more complete exercise of the whole art. By a considerable body of English physicians, the corresponding most important years of life are usually occupied, for the greater part, in academic studies ; so that professional pursuits hardly begin till after the time when the tastes and habits have been formed, and probably directed, in a great measure, to other objects. These two modes of proceeding are very different, and cannot both be right.

By those, who are induced to uphold the existing distinction of physic and surgery, various views have been taken of it. Frequently, it has been made to rest on the difference of internal and external diseases. Unfortunately for this notion, Nature has connected the outside and inside so closely, that we cannot say where one ends, and the other begins. She has decreed that both shall obey the same pathological laws, and she has subjected them to such powerful mutual influences, that we cannot stir a step in investigating the diseases of either, without reference to the other. The continuity between the outside and inside, at the entrance of the various mucous membranes, presents a series of puzzling cases. How far is the surgeon to be trusted ? He is allowed to

take care of the mouth; where is he to stop? At the entrance of the fauces—in the pharynx—in the œsophagus—or in the stomach? May he meddle with the larynx, or have anything to do with the trachea? Polypus nasi and ozœna are entrusted to him, but he must not treat catarrh; though inflammation and increased discharge from the whole urethra, and even from the bladder, with all diseases of the prostate are surrendered to him; the anus with its abscesses, fistulæ, piles, and excrescences; and the rectum, with its strictures and other affections, belong to him; but he must not ascend beyond the brim of the pelvis. When we look to the nature, causes, and treatment of diseases, the distinction between internal and external appears preeminently absurd. Internal causes produce external diseases, and external agencies affect inward parts. Erysipelas, carbuncle, gout, edema, exemplify the former; pneumonia, catarrh, and many forms of rheumatism, the latter.

The eyes are entrusted to the surgeon as external parts. Yet the organ is the most complicated in the body, and many of its parts are highly organized, so that its affections are very much diversified, and require a greater insight into pathology and therapeutics, than those of any other single part. The eye, with its appendages, not only contains mucous, serous, and fibrous membranes, muscular, nervous, and glandular parts, but also several peculiar tissues. It not only exhibits the various affections of these produced by common disease, but it suffers from gout and rheumatism,

from smallpox, measles, scarlatina and chronic cutaneous eruptions; from scrofula and syphilis, cancer, fungus hematodes, and melanosis.

Mr. Lawrence proceeded to point out that the distinction between local and general diseases is untenable; or, at all events, that nearly the whole nosology would fall under the first head.

Relying on the original nature and extent of the duties called surgical, some think that the surgeon should be confined to the cases requiring operations, or other manual aid. Mr. Lawrence pointed out that this, which is a varying circumstance in particular diseases, would not be a sufficient ground of distinction; while it would leave in ambiguity the large class of diseases that require both chirurgical and internal means.

It has even been proposed, that surgeons should confine themselves to the actual performance of operations, the application of dressings, and similar duties. Were surgery restricted to this mechanical department, I should feel degraded in belonging to it, and very little inclined to teach such an art. Scientific principles would be unnecessary; it would be superfluous to study anatomy, physiology, pathology, and therapeutics; we might well resign to the barbers the contemptible remnant to which our profession would then be reduced.

In considering this subject, we naturally revert to the restrictions originally imposed by the physicians on their servants the barbers, and the long series of disputes which ensued between them. Surgeons have completely emancipated themselves from

this degrading bondage: they have cultivated with the greatest ardor and success the scientific foundation of their art. They can adduce the rapid progress of surgery since the middle of the last century, and its present undiminished rate of progression, in proof that their claims on the approbation, support and confidence of the public, are not inferior to those of any other branch of the medical profession. They can point out in their modern annals the names of many who have been the largest contributors to the advancement of medical science;—of Cheselden, Sharp, Pott, and John Hunter; of J. L. Petit, and the other members of the French Academy of Surgery; of Desault, Bichat, Boyer, Dupuytren; of Richter, Beer, and Scarpa. Yet the pretension of thus restricting surgeons seems not quite abandoned: the recent fatal illness of an illustrious personage seems to have revived a little of the ancient jealousy. A statement obviously proceeding from authority, has been inserted in most of the public journals, in which it is plainly indicated that the province of surgeons is to “administer to external ailments;” and that their duties include the important negative one, of “prescribing no internal remedy whatever.” This attempt is too late by a century or two: it is only worthy of the era of barbersurgery, and Galenical medicine. In those serious cases in which external injury or disease is connected with internal, more or less general symptoms,—as in compound fracture with fever, in injuries of the head with affections of the nervous system and fever, in erysipelas supervening on local injury or disease, in

strangulated hernia;—it is the obvious interest of the patient to be under the care of one, who thoroughly understands the case in all its bearings. It matters not to him whether the person thus capable of rendering him service belongs to one fraternity or another, to this college or to that, or even if he should be of no college at all. The surgeon who understands only the local, and the physician who only knows the general treatment of such a case, are, each of them, only half informed; and the two together deserve much less reliance than one who is conversant with the whole. The mere local means in such cases are often of little importance, while the general management is everything; so that a surgeon, ignorant of the latter, is incompetent to the practice of his profession.

The mere performance of operations is often the least important part of the surgeon’s duty, even in cases requiring them. To judge whether the complaint is curable by other means, to perceive when operation is advisable or necessary, to prepare the patient for it, and to manage the case properly after it has been performed, are points of equal and often superior importance. It is a great mistake to suppose that any surgeon is principally employed in operating. The number of operations has been greatly diminished of late years; I think that twentyfive years ago there were three times the present number performed annually at St. Bartholomew’s Hospital. The difference has arisen from improved knowledge of the nature and treatment of diseases acquired by the anato-

mical, pathological, and practical researches of surgeons.

Thus, whatever course we take, we arrive at the same conclusion; namely, that there is no natural distinction between physic and surgery; that they are merely parts of one science and art; that the scientific principles are the same, and the same means must be used both by the physician and surgeon, because they have the same ends to accomplish.

The distinction of physic and surgery appears then, at least, to be quite arbitrary, to be dependent on and regulated by usage; founded on no fixed principles, and therefore fluctuating like all matters of custom.

These remarks apply only to the study of the medical profession, which must be learned as a whole. The various parts elucidate each other so materially, that he who confines his investigations to one department cannot understand even that thoroughly. I do not contend that every one should practise all parts; and I am fully aware that the field is far too extensive for one individual to cultivate the whole minutely with a view to further improvement. No doubt that one, who has received a general medical education, may improve a particular department, if he should have his time fully occupied with it; and that circumstances of taste, convenience, situation, and public opinion, may thus lead to subdivisions in practice with advantage to the public, and benefit to science. This point, however, must be left to the free choice of individual practitioners and patients.

The great mass of the population in this kingdom is attended

by general practitioners; such is the case in the army and navy, and with the middling and lower classes. No dispute arises about these; but the tender anxieties of those, who labor to keep up established distinctions, are reserved for the metropolis and a few large towns; that is, for those rich people who can afford to remunerate their professional attendants handsomely. A French minister seems to have judged pretty correctly of the matter. The propriety of separating physic and surgery was strongly represented to him: "I would elevate," said the advocate of the measure, "a wall of brass between them." "Pray, sir," rejoined the minister, "on which side of your wall do you propose to place the patients?" The public can take no interest in such a controversy, if its absurdity does not amuse them; unless, indeed, its result should tend to abridge them of one power, which should not be infringed without some very urgent reason,—that of entrusting their limbs and lives to those whose talents and knowledge they hold in the greatest respect, whatever may be the designation under which they practise, or the fraternity to which they belong.

I cannot quit this subject without impressing on you most earnestly the advantages, nay, the necessity of studying medicine comprehensively. Every particle of information that you can collect will be found useful. I meet with none better acquainted with disease and its treatment than those who, after a good education, enjoy large opportunities of observation, as general practitioners. Surgeons in the army and navy have, in many cases the

same kind of advantage. From these two classes many individuals might be selected very well qualified to act in the conjoint capacity of surgeon and physician.

The nature and objects of medical education will be obvious from the foregoing remarks. Get as much knowledge as possible of anatomy, physiology, pathology, and therapeutics, and closely study the practice of medicine and surgery.

The necessity of anatomical knowledge as the basis of all medical studies, and its importance to surgeons, more particularly, are points now generally recognized. Not to speak of anatomy as the necessary foundation and criterion of all medical doctrines, it is most essential in the peculiar domain of the surgeon, to enable him to distinguish in doubtful cases the exact seat of disease; to understand the nature and extent of injury in fractures, dislocations, wounds of vessels, and other soft parts, and to guide his proceedings in all operations. If you ask how much knowledge of anatomy is necessary, the answer is, as much as you can get. You, I trust, will not attempt to calculate how small a stock of scientific knowledge will enable you to carry on the trade of surgery. Your more honorable aim will be to render yourselves accurate anatomists. The more exalted the point to which you direct your efforts, the higher will you ascend. *Altius ibunt, qui ad summa nituntur.*

The Lecturer proceeded to make some observations on the study of physiology, pathology, and therapeutics, and strongly enforced the advantages of clinical study in hospitals, comparing the

exhibition of medical and surgical facts in actual cases to the mode of teaching anatomy by demonstrations. He observed, that such expositions might be called medical and surgical demonstrations. He spoke of lectures and books as important auxiliaries, considering the actual observation of disease as the matter of primary consequence, and leading to the clearest and most satisfactory knowledge. He recommended his audience to embrace in their studies the whole range of medical science; to begin with surgery, as affording the best pathological and therapeutic evidence, and then to proceed to medicine, in which the only clear light is derived from the observation of disease and treatment in the cases called surgical. This comprehensive study is obviously necessary to general practitioners; but it is equally so to those who mean to be surgeons only. They must apply in their own department the principles and modes of relief deduced from a survey of medicine generally. The term pure surgeon, as intended to denote one who knows nothing more than surgery in its strict sense, has justly become an object of ridicule. An eminent surgeon, who has the thorough acquaintance with anatomy, physiology, and the general principles of medical science, necessary to such a character, will be constantly consulted in all kinds of circumstances, and more especially in cases of obscurity, difficulty, and emergency. If he says that he has not studied this, that he knows nothing of that, that he cannot direct the treatment of a case under such and such occurrences, what can he expect but to forfeit the confidence of those

to whom his ignorance becomes thus exposed, and in whose estimation he must hereafter be contented to rank below a general practitioner.

The Lecturer proceeded to observe that these truths were now fully recognized and acted on in France, Germany, and the United States, in all of which there is one and the same course of education for physicians and surgeons—one examination for both, and full liberty for each individual to practise whatever department may suit his inclination or advantage.

Mr. Lawrence entered on some short historical details; and concluded by speaking in strong commendation of the zeal and activity displayed by several young physicians and surgeons in France, and of the great advantages which the student possesses in that country in prosecuting all branches of his professional education. He had on the table, and recommended to the attention of the class, the fourteen first numbers of Cloquet's *Manuel d'Anatomie*, observing, that the execution of the plates corresponded hitherto with the high expectations founded on the first specimen; also, Blandin's *Traité d'Anatomie Topographique*, with most beautiful lithographic engravings; and Rayner's *Traité des Maladies de la Peau*, with colored figures representing the various affections with great fidelity.—*Lancet*.

The Editor adds the following note.

We beg to direct the particular attention of the reader to the extract from Mr. LAWRENCE's admirable Introductory Lecture, inserted in this day's *LANCET*. We have

selected only that portion of the discourse which treats of Medical Education, and of the distinction of *pure medicine* and *pure surgery*, because these subjects at the present moment are engrossing much of the consideration of the medical world. It is impossible that the foolish and arbitrary distinction attempted to be drawn between surgery and medicine, can be more happily or more effectually exposed, than in the brilliant effort of MR. LAWRENCE.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

OBSERVATIONS ON PUNCTURED WOUNDS.

By JAMES FOUNTAIN, M. D., of Westchester Co. N. Y.

A periodical paper, uniting scientific and popular medicine, has long been wanting to clear away the mists of superstition and prejudice from the minds of people generally; for there are very many otherwise well informed persons, whose avocations have precluded even the scattering rays of the science of medicine. Impostors of every denomination have always found it their interest to veil their feats in mystery, and to keep the multitude in ignorance. To medical impostors in particular, the light of science is a sure deathwarrant, while to the regular physician it affords the greatest aid and support. Hence the utility of the Boston Medical Intelligencer, whose object appears to be the diffusion of such knowledge as is calculated to prevent and to mitigate the sufferings incident to humanity; and to this laudable object should every man whose opportunities and ability permit, contribute a share.

My object in the present essay is to offer a few concise remarks on the management of one of the

most common and distressing accidents,—I mean punctured wounds. It is a fact that, in general, all the suffering, not to say loss of limb or life, hangs solely on the treatment of the first few moments or hours after the accident, and consequently often before medical aid can be obtained in country places. All punctured wounds are liable to a first, a second, and a third stage or condition; the violence of the second depends on the first, and that of the third on the second: hence to obviate the first is the fundamental part of the treatment. These stages may be called the irritative, inflammatory, and suppurative. Suppose, for instance, a man thrusts a nail into his foot, or a pitchfork or penknife into his knee; violent pain immediately or soon after commences in the part,—the agony is often intolerable; he groans, writhes, sighs and shivers; a cold sweat covers his whole body, his pulse sinks, his countenance becomes pallid, he fears to be moved; yet the part is not sore to the touch, nor hot, but evidently cold, and to prevent or mitigate this morbid process is to prevent or mitigate excessive inflammation, with all its train of evils. When the irritation is severe, vomiting is often induced, which brings on reaction, terminating the first stage. On the contrary, when the irritation is only moderate, it demands little or no attention, and continues till tetanus announces the time lost. It is to this stage I shall confine my observations, when no practitioner is generally at hand, for medical aid seldom arrives or is summoned, in ordinary cases, till inflammation is developed, and fortunately too for the patient,

provided such authority as I shall presently adduce, is to be obeyed.

From the foregoing history it must be evident to the most ordinary observer, that the nervous system alone is primarily affected, its powers are impaired, and its functions deranged, and prostration, both local and general, is the consequence. Under these circumstances, who would think, by bloodletting, still further to enfeeble the efforts of perturbed and sinking vitality? and yet such a procedure is inculcated. Dr. Samuel Cooper observes, "For the *first stage* of a punctured wound, the indication is to guard against the attack of violent inflammation." So far very good; but now for the means. "Where no considerable quantity of blood has been lost, *general and topical bloodletting* should be practised." This grand mistake of Dr. Cooper grew wholly out of his want of discrimination between preventive and curative means. Instead of "guarding against the attack of violent inflammation," he is prescribing for its removal. These means are well calculated for the second stage, but are directly the reverse of what they ought to be in the first.

When no large artery is wounded, I have always found the indication to be *to raise* the action of the vascular system, either locally, or locally and generally, till the excitement is sufficient to overcome the nervous irritation. The means of fulfilling this indication are, the stimuli, among which caloric, or heat, holds the preeminence. The wounded part should be immediately and thoroughly heated through; and the most eligible method of accomplishing this object, is through the

medium of poultices. A quantity of tobacco, when at hand, should be boiled a few minutes, and Indian meal added till it is of a proper consistence, and a large quantity applied as hot as it can be well borne. By a large quantity I mean not the size and thickness of a dollar, but a poultice six inches square, and one and a half inch thick. This should be kept hot by holding over it a heated shovel or some such instrument. If the whole system sympathizes and the pulse is feeble, the skin cold, &c., some hot vegetable infusion, with a large spoonful of camphorated spirit, or some hartshorn drops, may be frequently taken. An old neighbor of mine told me that he had never known any injurious consequences to arise in his numerous family from punctures, which were common among them; and his mode of prevention was immediately to place a fold of muslin, wetted with vinegar, over the wound, and apply to this a case-knife as hot as could be endured, wetting the rag and heating the knife every few minutes for half an hour. This being done, no danger was apprehended; and the practice, though not quite so ceremonious as local bloodletting, was quite as philosophical.

The late Dr. Dorsey, of Philadelphia, indeed mentions stimulating treatment, but he introduces it so circumstantially as to render it unimportant. He observes, "When punctured wounds occur in extremely hot weather, it is safest to apply stimulating substances to excite inflammation." This short sentence of the professor's, I must be permitted to say, carries with it several erroneous ideas. The heat of the weather being a stimulant, less

additional stimulation becomes necessary to produce the same degree of excitement. The warmth of the season does not, therefore, render wounds more, but less capable of producing tetanus. The inhabitants of warm climates being more irritable, a proper degree of stimulation is with them more imperiously demanded. In this climate, however, people in health are no more irritable in summer than in winter, for tetanus occurs quite as often in the latter* as in the former season. So that following Dr. Dorsey, a due degree of stimulation would, most probably, be neglected in cold weather when it is most required.

I must beg to transgress my bounds so far as to observe that nervous irritation is the first effect not only of punctured, but more or less of all other wounds, concussions and contusions, and that it requires a corresponding course of treatment, I mean stimulation. This stage of irritation not unfrequently continues several days, especially in elderly people, and in cold weather. An elderly gentleman told me he felt an instant aggravation of pain on being bled for a concussion, which the doctor said was owing to the starting of the blood, which had been stagnated.—A young lady from N. E. was thrown into the most violent spasms by being bled on a cold day, immediately after

* The author of the introductory discourse to Gregory's Treatise, observes that "tetanus, in this climate, never occurs in winter." This mistake arose from the sweeping manner in which this discourse was written; for the son of John Hilliker, of Staten Island, died of tetanus in January, and two others in N. York, to my knowledge, died of the same disease in winter.

having been thrown out of a sleigh. To obviate the spasms, warmth was applied, and she was thus partially relieved, only, however, to be bled down again on the second and fourth days. I was called in on the fifth, as her surgeon told her the operation must be repeated the next day. I prescribed Dover's powder, 10 grains, gum camphor, 4 grains, every 4 hours, with a warm bath for the feet, warm teas, and bladders filled with warm water to be applied to the shoulder and side affected, and every precaution to be taken to warm her thoroughly. In 24 hours every pain vanished, and a cathartic finished the cure. Notwithstanding this length of time, on a scrupulous examination, it was evident that she was still laboring under nervous irritation.

We thank Dr. Fountain for this communication, and hope his good example will stir up more of the Faculty to do likewise. We have for some years been persuaded that in all cases of punctured wounds followed by pain, coldness and feeble pulse; in all cases of falls, blows, and contusions followed by these symptoms of depression, that bleeding is injurious; and have occasionally lost a patient by obeying this conviction, as the general opinion of the bystanding multitude is that the sufferer ought to be bled immediately, and they are always desirous to find a surgeon who will conform to their impressions whether right or wrong. When warmth and reaction return, if the latter is excessive, bleeding may be proper, or necessary, but, we apprehend, never before.

BRITTLENESS OF THE BONES.

There are at present in Guy's Hospital two remarkable instances of morbid brittleness of the different bones of the body, from which cause one of the patients has sustained thirteen, and the other fourteen fractures. In both cases the bones are so fragile, that they are broken from the application of a very slight force. This state of bone has been remarked on by many authors as occurring in bad cases of scurvy; also in syphilis, and in persons long affected with cancerous diseases, or in extreme old age. In the present instances, however, there are no such circumstances, and the disease in one case appears to have been connate.

CASE I. The patient is a cooper, 32 years of age, and not more than five feet in height, having been reduced seven inches and a half, according to his own statement, by the fractures which he has received. The right leg was fractured at a very early age; the right femur has been broken five times; only two months intervened between the two last fractures. The left thigh has been broken three times; the right humerus, three times broken, and the left humerus once. He was admitted into Accident Ward, under the care of Mr. Morgan, about three weeks since, with fracture of the neck of the right scapula. The patient states, that all the fractures have been occasioned by slight causes, such as a trifling blow on the part, or from his foot slipping when walking.

The union of the bones of the arm is tolerably good, and also of the leg, but in both thighs the bone is bent forward in a remark-

able degree ; in fact, the broken ends of the bone have united in such a manner, as to form an obtuse angle. It appears from the man's account, that a few years ago only one of the thigh bones was thus united, and that consequently the limb was several inches shorter than the opposite. Whilst in this state he broke the straight thigh, and came to Guy's Hospital, under the care of Sir A. Cooper, at the time in which Mr. Tyrrell was dresser. Now Mr. Tyrrell is an *ingenious* man, as everybody knows, and, in his version of the case, says that he considered it would be right to join the broken bone in such a manner, that it should be of the same length as the other. This was effected without much difficulty ; in fact, by treating the patient in the usual hospital manner, what Sir A. Cooper terms a "ram's horn" was produced, and the patient was shorn of his stature some few inches. In conclusion on this case, it may be proper to remark, that the man's health has always been, and continues, very good.

CASE II. This patient is 50 years of age, and obtained his livelihood for many years as a market man. He slipped down on the pavement when 21 years of age, fractured the left femur, and was in Guy's Hospital under the care of Mr. Cooper. After this time he fractured the same femur six times from slight causes, the left femur three times, and the left tibia twice. He was admitted last week into Cornelius's Ward, under the care of Mr. B. Cooper, with fracture of the left tibia, which constitutes the thirteenth fracture received since the patient attained the age of

21. Both thigh bones are much distorted ; the right is curved outwards, whilst the left is bent forwards. This patient also states his general health always to have been good.—*Lancet*.

Miss Wright, an English lady, well known as the writer of a volume of *Travels* in the United States, has recently made an establishment for the benefit of the negro race. The establishment is at Nashoba, West Tennessee, and consists of 2000 acres of land, and is valued at \$6000. Ten Trustees are to have the management of the property, General La Fayette is one of them.—*Maine Gazette*.

HOT WEATHER.

At Cheraw, S.C. on the 10th inst. the mercury in Fahrenheit's thermometer, was at 98 degrees in the shade.—*Charleston Gazette*.

We cannot suppress our satisfaction, at seeing the proceedings of the Hartford County Med. Soc., which have just come to hand. Among other resolutions, pertaining directly to their professional pursuits, we find the following:

"Resolved, That each member of this society be requested to report at their next annual meeting, the number of those who shall die from Intemperance during the next year, and also the number of those diseased from the same cause.

"Resolved, That in all future meetings of this society, we dispense with the use of ardent spirit."—*Recorder and Telegraph*.

Can the Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, at their approaching anniversary meeting, do better than to imitate this very commendable example ?

THE JEWS.

In a late German publication we find the following notice concerning this remarkable people :

We find the Jewish Nation scattered over all parts of the world. No where do they form an independent people, and in no country, indeed, have they a fixed residence, if we except some villages in Russia and Arabia, where they live in distinct communities.

The number of the Jews is not decreased much since the time of David and Solomon. Their population was then four millions. At the present day they amount to about three million two hundred thousand souls, who are distributed in the following manner :

In Bavaria, 53,402 ; Saxony, 1,300 ; Hanover, 6,000 ; Wurtemberg, 9,068 ; Barden, 16,930 ; Electorate of Hesse, 5,170 ; Grand Duchy of Hesse, 14,982 ; Rest of the Allied German States, 18,248 ; Frankfort on the Maine, 5,200 ; Lubeck, 400 ; Hamburg, 8,000 ; Austrian States, 453,545 ; Prussia, 134,980 ; Russia, 426,908 ; Poland, 232,000 ; Great Britain, 12,000 ; Low Countries, 80,000 ; France, 60,000 ; Sweden, 450 ; Denmark, 6,000 ; Switzerland, 1,970 ; Italy, 36,000 ; Ionian Islands, 7,000 ; Caracow, 7,000 ; Turkey, 321,000 ; Asia, 138,000 ; Africa, of which 300,000 in the Empire of Morocco, 504,000 ; America, 5,700 ; West Indies, 50.

There are no longer any Jews in Spain or Portugal ; there never have been any in Norway ; Sweden did not admit them till lately ; in the Austrian States they enjoy some rights ; in England, though they participate in all the rights of Dissenters, they have never prospered ; in Russia they are tolerated, but under strict surveillance ; in the States of the German confederacy, in France, in the Netherlands, and in Prussia, the Jews enjoy all the rights of citizens, without, however, being eligible to places of public trust.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1827.

THE POST OFFICE.

A deputy postmaster in Nottaway county, Va., charges a subscriber for this paper $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents for each number of it. Whereas, if we are rightly informed, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cent is the highest legal charge for a newspaper of this size, for any distance within the United States. This postmaster will, then, whenever he shall acquire a knowledge of his duty, and a disposition to perform it, refund two-fifths of the postage he may have thus received, in this instance, and take care not to exceed his authority in any similar case in future.

But this illegal demand for postage is not the only one which has occurred. Some years ago, the following fact came under our notice. A clerk in the post office in ——, insisted on receiving $18\frac{3}{4}$ cents for a single letter coming the distance of 110 miles only. The demand was objected to as illegal :—the clerk, who had grown grey in his office, persisted, and the money was paid. This imposition was afterward corrected ; in the mean time, however, at two different and distinct periods, the clerk still declared that $18\frac{3}{4}$ cents was the regular, legal postage for a single letter for the distance of 110 miles. When he was ultimately put in the wrong, and compelled to refund the money, he did it in the most ungentlemanly manner.

We believe that the public lose every day, not only money committed to "the security of the post office," but experience beside numerous embarrassments, disappoint-

ments and injuries, from the delays, the negligence, and the loose and careless manner in which the business of this department is in many places transacted; and from the unwarrantable and unprincipled liberties taken with the pamphlets, packets, letters and papers which are deposited for safe keeping and punctual transmission. Though the present postmaster general did not do what was, and remains, indispensable, to purify one office, against which complaints sufficiently grievous were duly preferred, yet we do believe, in general, that he is a vigilant and faithful officer, and that he has done, and is doing, much to make his agents what they should be. Still, however penetrating and watchful his eye may be, it cannot extend over the thousands of his deputies,—nor is it possible for him fully to accomplish his laudable design, without the aid and cooperation of the people. Individuals, therefore, who suffer from these evils, should note and record facts as they occur,—send them immediately to the post office general, or publish them, according to circumstances. This should be done not in anger and exaggeration, but fully, explicitly, and decently, when we trust, that in most instances, they will be properly attended to.

Mail Robberies.—A postmaster in Virginia, and a person employed in the post office in Canandaigua, N. Y., have been arrested, charged with stealing money from the mail.

CONVERSATION.

Great talents for conversation require to be accompanied with great politeness; he who eclipses others

owes them great civilities, and whatever a mistaken vanity may tell us, it is better to *please* in conversation than to *shine* in it.

We have received "Medicus Junior," whose communication does not come exactly within our views. When any instance of medical practice, or conduct, is so good as to lead to imitation and improvement,—or so bad as to afford a useful lesson of admonition, we think it worth publishing. In the case related by our correspondent, though the operator is rough and rude, the patient might have died from the injury received, and therefore it is not so well suited for us as many others, whose characteristic features are better marked.

The "specific for consumption," we shall preserve till we come to make some general remarks on the existence and effects of ignorance and superstition, as they affect the public health.

We have received the third Medical Essay in the London Literary Gazette, and shall republish it soon. The English Editor remarks on these Essays, "We rejoice to find that they are attracting so generally the attention of families and of the Profession."

DICTIONARY.

Fungus hæmatodes, a tumor full of bloodvessels, and much disposed to bleed.

Œsophagus, the gullet, a membranous and muscular tube through which the food passes from the mouth to the stomach.

Ozaena, an offensive ulcer of the nose.

Pneumonia, an inflammation of the lungs.

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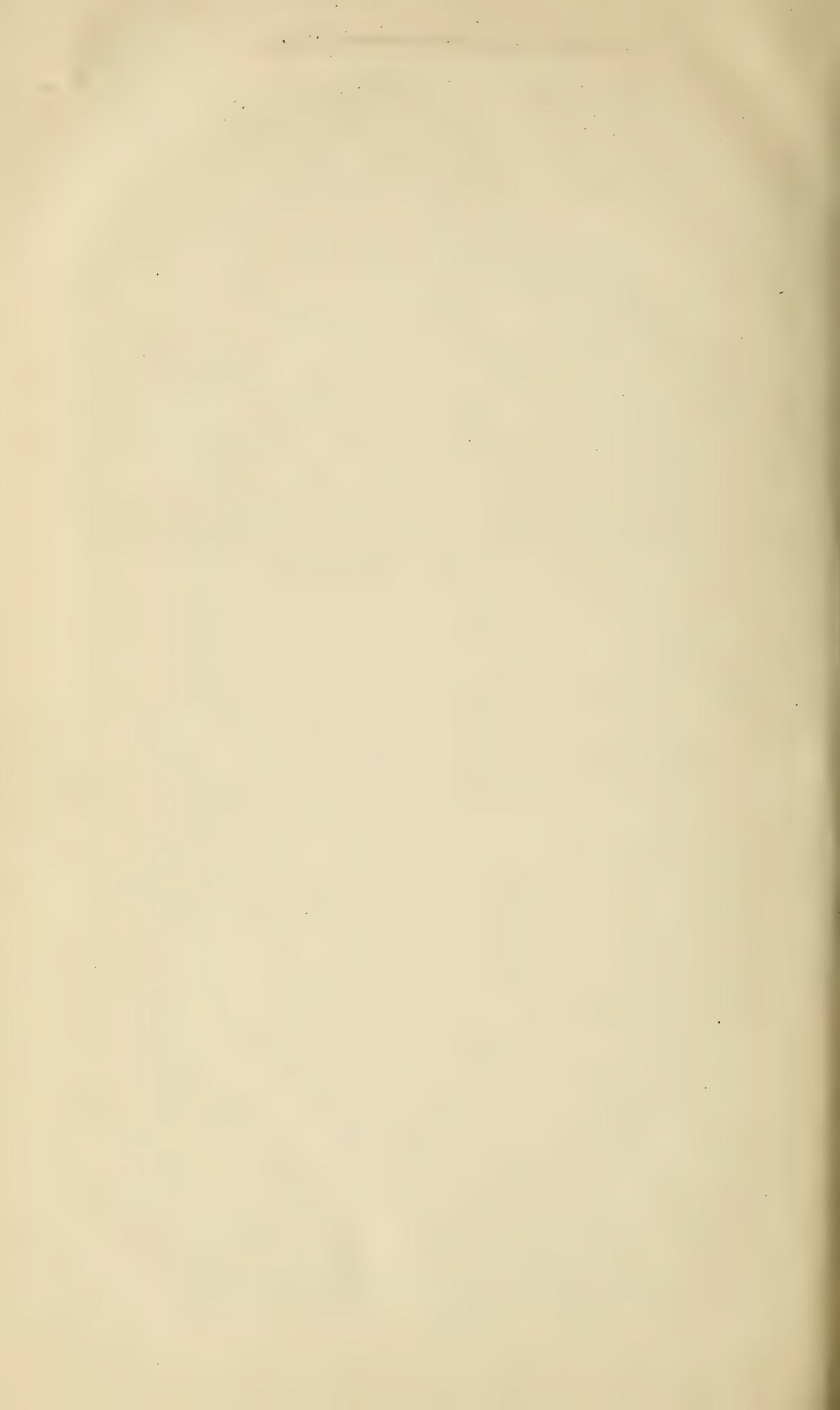
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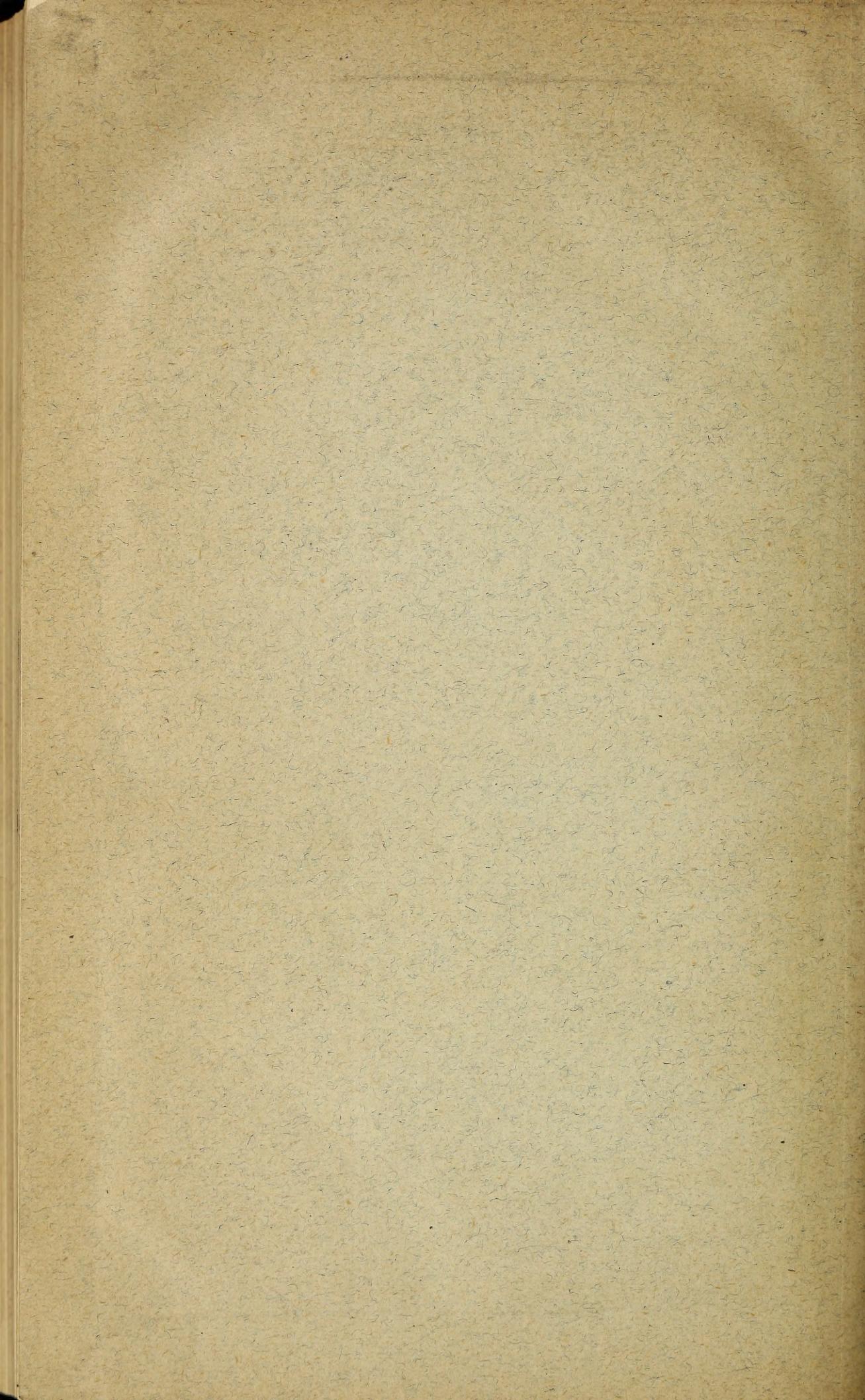
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